■ SUNDAY COMICS

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A4-4

Tripping down memory lane on Edsa I with celebs who were there

■ NEWS / A2

Loyal troops still surround Ranger base

■ SIM / Q1

APO who wrote Edsa anthem disappointed, migrating to Australia

Solon, retired general arrested for conspiracy

By Leiza A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

USING A 21-YEAR-OLD WARRANT AND INVOKING President Macapagal-Arroyo's emergency edict, police yesterday arrested a retired police general on a golf course and an opposition lawmaker about to go on a picnic with his family.

The twin arrests, coming hours after police raided the offices of the Daily Tribune newspaper,

SOLON, A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 26, 2006 ** 15 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 80 P18

1081 or 1017? AFP chief fumbles not once but twice

By Dona Pazcibugan

CONFUSED ABOUT whether the country is in a state of emergency under Proclamation 1081 or Proclamation 1017? You are not alone.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo's main as-

NEWS, A4-5

PNP chief warns media

Organizations face takeover if they don't follow 'gov't standards'

HOPES CAVE crumbling down like the boulders across the bleak landscape of the village of Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, as the search for survivors is called off for the buried residents. Benguet miners get ready to leave the landslide site. Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias says 139 bodies have been retrieved since Feb. 17.

By Leiza A. del Puerto, Tina G. Santos and Pe Zamora

IN A BALD WARNING, the Philippine National Police yesterday said it would take over any media organization that would not follow "standards set by the government" during the state of national emergency.

A government team will examine the editorial contents of newspapers and the news or views aired by broadcast stations to see if these conform to the standards, according to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"We will recommend [action] based on our evaluation," Lomibao said in a press conference, adding that the PNP would work in cooperation with other government agencies which he did not name.

He appointed the PNP spokesperson, Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, to serve as "liaison officer" between the media and the police.

"If they [the news groups] do not follow the standards—and the standards are if they would contribute to instability in the government, [or] if they do not subscribe to what is in General Order No. 5 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017—we will recommend [a takeover]," Lomibao said.

The proclamation, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Friday, declared a state of emergency all over the country. GO No. 5 gives the police and military powers to carry out "necessary and appropriate actions and measures to suppress and prevent acts of terrorism and lawless violence."

Violations of the standards will be "left to the judgment of the [PNP] and other agencies that are empowered to implement the [GO]," Lomibao said.

They include "actions which are hurting the Philippine state by obstructing governance, including hindering the growth of

PNP, A19

Rescuers give up on Leyte landslide survivors

By Joey A. Gubrea and Jiel Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—The search for survivors in Guinsaugon officially ended Friday night, a week after a killer mudslide reduced the barangay to mud and rubble.

Civilian and military authorities here decided to abort search and rescue operations and to have Filipino soldiers and volunteers focus on retrieving bodies.

Foreign volunteers were preparing to pull out, according to Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias. The first to go were the Spanish and Taiwanese teams.

"The Spanish started to leave even before [Friday]—," Lerias told Reuters. "The conditions are not good for their dogs because it has been raining hard."

The governor said it was a very sad and difficult decision to make because 935 people were still missing. She said the decision was based on the recommendation of experts.

As of 5 p.m. Friday, only 138 bodies had been retrieved.

"The search and rescue phase is over. The decision was reached upon the recommendation of the experts. They feel it will take a miracle to find survivors; the chances are almost zero," Lerias

RESCUERS, A19

TOGETHER AGAIN at the Edsa Shrine, ex-Presidents Aquino and Ramos hear Mass marking the last of the four-day triumph of the Edsa I People Power revolt 20 years ago on Saturday.

FVR slams GMA: My support waning, waning, 1017 'overkill'

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra

GIVING HIS SUPPORT FOR PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo was "waning and waning," former President Fidel Ramos yesterday decreed the state of emergency she proclaimed is not only "overdosed" but an "overkill."

Former President Corazon Aquino, for her part, stressed the need for Filipinos to keep the democracy which they fought to restore in 1986.

"What is this emergency act all about? Is it another name for martial law?" she said, when asked by reporters for her reaction to Ms Arroyo's proclamation.

Speaking at a press conference, Ramos said Ms Arroyo should have assessed the situation very carefully before making such a move.

"Before, my support for her was waning. Now it is waning and waning. It's like before it was X, now it's double X. So what is next?" he said.

Ramos had been credited with helping save Ms Arroyo's administration from collapse when he rallied the Lakas party in the President's side in July last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal.

Asked what would finally drive him to abandon Ms Arroyo, Ramos said enigmatically: "Just wait."

He also said that the crackdown on media outlets and prominent personalities critical of the Arroyo administration under questionable conditions was alarming.

He said Malacañang should have made a proper assessment of the situation after uncovering

FVR SLAMS GMA, A4

THE CHURCH

Reflections on Sin across the tables

By Bishop Socrates B. Villegas

MY FAVORITE TABLE IS THE WORKING desk of Cardinal Sin. The second table that I love the most is the big round table in the bar room.

On these two tables, Cardinal Sin underwrote his mission of justice and peace. These two tables know more about the inside story of historical events in the country than any other person.

SIN, A24

FINALLY, Palace gates swing wide open for the people after 14 years.

THE MEDIA

For a shining moment, Filipinos were invincible

By Richard Reeves
(The following is reprinted from a United Press Syndicate article in February 1986)

I WAS IN TWO CITIES, LONDON AND THEN PARIS, LAST TUESDAY, when Corazon Aquino became president of the Philippines. In London, people walking by on Brompton Road cheered when a vendor put up a new headline of the Evening Standard, "Marcos Flees." In Paris, Frenchmen and women called to each other across noisy streets: "Did you hear the news?"

"Her story is at once the most surprising succession of miracles and the most successful of political actions," wrote a Frenchman.

COMM, A24

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Isolated thunderstorms (except northern Luzon) during the afternoon or evening; cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers; moderate winds from north to northeast; slight to moderate seas

Loyal troops surround Ranger base

By Tonette Orejas, AP, Carlito Pablo and Ricain Papa and Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Inquirer

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — LOYAL ARMY TROOPS UNder Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan have surrounded Camp Tecson, the headquarters of the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, after its former commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, was implicated in an alleged coup plot.

Palparan, the chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said his troops had surrounded the regiment's base in San Miguel, Bulacan, since early Friday to prevent Lim's 200 men from leaving camp and supporting destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration.

Starting 11 a.m. on Saturday, Palparan said he deployed his troops around the camp. "We'll maintain [the] siege but not brigades and six battalions.

"They were not [sent to] reinforce [soldiers] to escape counter-intelligence work but they're easy to consolidate in case of a coup attempt," Palparan said of his other forces.

He said the station of Camp Tecson had security lapses.

The elite Scout Ranger unit is now headed by Col. Raymundo Ramoneda.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said Lim would not face court-martial automatically. He would first be investigated, Senga said.

"He is now forced to take quarters [at Fort Bonifacio]. He'll be out of those investigated so that the appropriate legal actions will be taken," the AFP chief replied when asked if Lim was being treated as a coup plotter.

Senga said it was up to the Army to investigate Lim since he belonged to that unit.

Lim was placed by the Philippine Army under house arrest yesterday and transferred to Army headquarters in the custody of the Philippine Army General Lim is under the custody of Gen. [illegible] commanding general Headquarters] Eastern," Bacarro said.

Bacarro added that Lim was not in a cell and would be allowed to receive visitors subject to the rules set forth by the army leadership.

"The purpose of subjecting General Lim to the custody of the Philippine Army is for him to be available during the conduct of the investigation," he said.

Lim, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, was a founding member of the Young Officers' Union (YOU) that launched the 1989 coup against then President Corazon Aquino.

The other day, Lim withdrew support from the administration and the chain of command and was about to lead his troops in antigovernment activities.

He was relieved of his command Thursday night and promptly taken into military custody.

Bacarro said that Army investigators were looking for other officers and soldiers who were supposed to join Lim.

PALPARAN

Post-Headshots

Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said Lim would be investigated for possible violation of the articles of War pertaining to rebellion, as well as other general provisions.

"We would like to confirm the report that General Lim is now under

Senga denies discussing withdrawal of support

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Generoso Senga insisted yesterday he never talked to the Army chief Palparan about or other Arroyo critics about withdrawing support from the Commander in Chief during the days leading to the declaration of a state of national emergency on February 24.

Senga maintained in an Inquirer interview with the Inquirer that he never entertained overtures for him to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"What was trying to get in touch with me. I totally ignored him," he said, denying an Inquirer report quoting Abat as saying that Gen. [illegible] had been "receptive" to a dialogue with the [illegible] group.

"I have not talked to anybody and I have no intention to talk to them," Senga said.

The Inquirer had quoted unidentified sources as saying that on the eve of the planned Edsa rallies last Friday, Senga was informed by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim about their plans to march with anti-Arroyo forces. The sources said Senga was "initially open" to the idea of a military withdrawal of support from the Arroyo but changed his mind after Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon talked him out of it.

"That's crazy," Senga said. "I deny that emphatically. There was no need for Esperon to convince me to do anything. I'm emphatic about this. I've never wavered in my commitment to my oath of office."

He added: "My service commanders take instructions from me. Not the one giving me instructions."

Senga relieved Lim, one of the founders of the defunct rebel group Young Officers Union (YOU), as head of the Army's 1st Scout Rangers Regiment and placed him "under custody" late Thursday night after their meeting.

Senga still would not divulge what "issues affecting the Armed Forces" he discussed with Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, another ex-YOU rebel, in his office at Camp Aguinaldo that night.

He admitted they talked about "controversies within their ranks," but insisted Lim "never voiced to me his intention to join a coup attempt."

PDI columnist sees inequity in arrests first-hand

ACADEMIC BARRY MUÑOZ, WHO WAS ONE of the rallies arrested immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of national emergency the other day, said he was thankful the police "treats the mistake" of arresting him.

Muñoz, a University of the Philippines professor and columnist of the Inquirer, said he had been invited at Camp Katipunan in Quezon City on Friday night but not for the first time with my camera how he found the post in no reality."

Muñoz, Akbayan president Ronald Llamas and lawyer Angie Ballicasa were arrested while leading a group of members on Edsa on Friday. The three were charged with illegal assembly and inciting to sedition but were later released.

Muñoz said that while he and his companions were made to wait inside an air-conditioned room while their case was being processed, at least 50 people, including minors, who had been arrested earlier for a traffic violation, were being held at the camp's gym.

He said he was embarrassed that there were at least 20 lawyers, including three senators, who showed up to help his group while "the men, women and children in their pantaloons" prayed. Senators Biazon, Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Joker Arroyo and Ballicasa, Gutierrez Ong did not have a single lawyer to help them.

"But he was here wanted, he would not have known of the predicament of the 50 who were arrested in various parts of Quezon City for allegedly passenger jeepneys charged with "out-of-line violations," Muñoz told reporters at a press briefing called by the Akbayan party-list group.

He said he was also not sure who to turn to for Hayde Perez Hospital at Cubao.

"It was only after we were about to leave at about 7:30 p.m. that we asked if we could help watch their release," Muñoz said.

Lawyer Eric Medrinaga, a child rights defender, was at the camp and was able to help the group. A social worker from the social welfare department also showed up to help watch the minors, he said.

Muñoz said he was disappointed at how the group was treated. — Nancy Carvajal

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67	85	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Kino, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Suzuki	CCBPI Plants in: San Fernando, Carlatan, Imus, Calamba, Tarlac CCBPI Sales Offices: Echague, Solano, Bagyo, Ilog, Tarlac, Cauayan, Mangaldan, San Jose, Tuguegarao	Ronald Dizon (Area Transportation Head) Angelito Dizon (MRS)	045-9913828 to 29
153	218	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Kino, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Honda, Kia, Daihatsu, Mazda	CCBPI Plants in: Manila, Sta. Rosa 1, Sta. Rosa 2 CCBPI Sales Offices: Mandaluyong, Northbay Blvd., Sta. Rosa, Quezon City, Tandang Sora, Meycauayan Ext., Tanza, Dasmarinas, Bagumbayan, CBC Antipolo, Pasig Lugo, Las Pinas, Malabon, San Mateo	Diony Galona (Area Transportation Head) Gilbert Peñacha (MRS)	873-2000 873-2183
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45	60	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Kino, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Honda, Kawasaki, Toyota	CCBPI Plants in: Davao, Gen. Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga CCBPI Sales Offices: Bajada, Opol, Butuan, Dipolog, Malaybalay, Maribel, Digos, Ulas, Iligan, Tagum, Cosmos, Kidapawan, Bislan, Pagadian	Edmund Montaño (Area Transportation Head) Peter Bahalian (MRS)	082-2211152 to 08

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In S Leyte, search on rescuers' minds, not coup

By Jart Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

GUINSAUGON, ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Reports that President Alunsanjal Arroyo had declared a state of national emergency after the military said it had foiled a coup attempt against the Arroyo administration were clear to regions among Filipino soldiers at the site of the landslide that buried this village a week ago.

They remained focus on search...retrieving the dead buried deep in the mud and mapping out the terrain in the hope that they would find a survivor.

In rescuers feared the rains to keep the search going, the report of a coup was discussed in passing and immediately rejected by the more than 5000 Filipino soldiers and policemen involved in the rescue operations.

"Look around here. We are united in our effort to help our brothers. We would not be disturbed. By talks of coup attempts. We will continue our search and rescue operations," said Maj. Gen. Rosalino Ramos, the overall ground commander of the rescue effort.

Ramos said that he and his men in the Army's 8th Infantry Division also remained steadfast in their support for the military chief of command.

"My position is to stay with the chain of command. This is not the time to destroy the solidarity of the Philippines," said Ramos.

He said the military should not be involved in partisan politics.

"We adhere to our oath as professional soldiers. I said that I will abide by the Constitution," he said.

Maj. General Agapito Aguimbodan, of the civil relations unit based in Tacloban City, stressed that all the officials and members of the 8th Infantry Division were firmly behind the Commander-in-Chief.

"The 8ID follows the chain of command. The enemy 8th ID will recognize the President as our commander in chief. The decision [of a state of emergency] is not our issue, and we are not affected by it," Aguimbodan said.

Ramos said his primary concern was to continue with the work of locating and extricating those still under the mud, the more than 200 whosoldiers and teachers of the Guinsaugon Elementary School.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias commended the rescuers for their determination to continue digging the search.

"But after the very touching part is that the rescuers know all of us know, that it is a very high-risk job, and the dangers they are exposed to. But in spite of that, they still have strong determination to push through," Lerias said.

With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Papal nuncio named

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's envoy to Baghdad is leaving Iraq to serve the pontiff in the Philippines.

Monsignor Fernando Filoni, who also has been serving as papal nuncio to Jordan, was posted in Baghdad as part of the Vatican's diplomatic corps in January 2003.

The Vatican's announcement Saturday of Filoni's new posting in Manila made no mention of who would replace him in Baghdad.

A month ago, when a car bomb exploded outside the Vatican's mission in Baghdad, Filoni said Iranian and extremist sects were trying to scare the small Christian community in Iraq. Filoni also described suicide bomb attacks last year in Jordan as an extension of the violence in Iraq.

The new posting takes the 59-year-old Italian to the Southeast Asian country with the largest number of Catholics. AP

'Emergency' could delay gov't, MILF peace talks

By Nash B. Medalana and Jeoffrey Maitem
INQUIRER Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – PEACE TALKS BETWEEN the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) may be delayed anew due to President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent declaration of a state of national emergency, senior MILF leaders said yesterday.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said they were expecting a delay in the resumption of the formal peace talks as the Army's offensive would be busy addressing the threats against the government.

"But I suppose the peace talks would go on," he said.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF peace negotiator, said they expect the declaration of the state of emergency to affect the schedule of the peace talks.

But Iqbal said the declaration would certainly not derail the peace process because it was not issued against them.

"We are not worried but we have reserves," he said.

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Afable, however, said the government would pursue the peace negotiations as scheduled.

Formal negotiations between the government and MILF were set to resume in March.

Afable said he was certain the two parties would reach a final peace agreement by September, or six months from the start of the talks.

Asked what was in store for the MILF after the talks, Afable said: "It would be a powerful political entity in which the Bangsamoro will be given all local powers, although it will still be under national laws and the Constitution."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 26, 2006
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hosea 2: 16-17, 21-22
God's love for Israel
In love going to allure her,
lead her unto some into the desert,
where I can speak to her tenderly.
There I will give forth her marriage,
made the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she will answer me as in her youth,
as when she came out of the land of Egypt.
She will be my spouse forever,
betrothed in justice and integrity,
in selfless united in love and tenderness.
I will espouse you in faithfulness
and you will come to know Yahweh.

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 3: 1-6
A letter of Christ
Am I again recommending myself? Or do I need to present to you letters of recommendation as some do, or should I ask you for those letters? You are the letter. This letter is written in your hearts, and all men can read and understand it. So, who could deny that you are Christ's letter written by us—a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, engraved not in slabs of stones, but in hearts of flesh.

Only by how we are sure of God, through Christ. In the us, we would not dare consider that something comes from us: our ability comes from God. He has even enabled us to be ministers of a new covenant: not a liturgy depending on a written text but on the Spirit. The written text kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Gospel: Mark 2: 18-22
Some prior into fresh relationship

One day, when the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting, some people asked Jesus, "Why is it that both the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but yours do not?" Jesus answered, "How can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and on that day they will fast.

"No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear away from the old cloth, making a worse tear. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the skins and then both the wine and the skins would be lost. But new wine, new skins!"

Commentary:

God is always waiting to run to draw us back to Him, to hold us and speak to our hearts. But we wander and do not respond. And still God wants to be intimate with us, bound to us in love and mercy, in justice forever, so that we will know God. This is our vocation.

Paul reminds us that we are God's love letters written to the Spirit for all to read. And in our hearts carved still is that act of the ultimate gesture of wedding love with God. We are to live by, pacing, trusting, in this intimacy with God. There will come a day when we must fast and we face the presence of Jesus, but until that day comes, there is a freshness and a life in the world that is ours and holy.

We have this precious vision, act, drink and rejoice.

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Solon, retired general arrested for conspiracy

Front page A1

appalled critics of Ms Arroyo, who denounced the crackdown as reminiscent of the dark days of martial law.

Leftist Rep. Crispin Beltran, of the Anakpawis party-list group, and retired Philippine Constabulary chief Gen. Hamon Morozo were also fired in (and the siting of Ms Arroyo's General Order No. 5 issued in the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police (PNP), vowing them to suppress terrorism and lawless violence.

Sutar escapes

Another police unit wanted to arrest Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo but narrowly missed him when they went to pick him up at the feds (hotel in Quezon City, where Ocampo and other congressmen were barricading as a mass conference Ms Arroyo's emergency proclamation.

Malacañang defended the arrests as part of ongoing efforts to go after right to 10 people supposedly part of an unholy alliance of politicians, military adventurists and communist rebels planning to overthrow the droopy.

Arrest list to be expanded

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the operation list could be expanded later.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao indicated that former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who had been involved in several failed coup attempts in the late 1980s, was among the targets.

Beltran and his family were driving out of San Francisco Homes subdivision in Bulacan at about 10 a.m. when a police team carrying long firearms cut into their path, forcing the anti-government activist to the roadside.

Beltran read

"Nasa mga armas sun in! (Here are) and involved my husband. My husband presented (the arrest document) doing was not right," Rosario added.

"He was very mad," she added.

There were seven people in the family car, including Beltran's 15-year-old grandson. None of them resisted, Rosario said.

Pilmo Beltran agreed to go in Camp Crame, two of the four officers took to the family car.

It was only at Camp Crame that Beltran was shown the arrest warrant... dated Oct. 7, 1985...which was issued in connection with a charge of inciting to rebellion, Rosario said. At the time, Beltran was an official of the union group Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Old case

"They're trying to revive an old case to get him. But the case no longer exists," she said.

Clearly, this is no case of harassment and persecution ... There seems to be a massive and indiscriminate illegal arrest of progressive personalities who are believed to be technical of the present government," said Rodem Capulong, Beltran's lawyer.

Capulong said the 1985 case had already been dismissed by a judge and that it was among the political cases quashed during the Cory Aquino revolutionary government.

He said he was told that the decision to release or detain Beltran was Lomibao's alone.

Part of conspiracy

"That is also an act of obstruction of justice proceedings, because he is in the performance of his duty as a duly elected party-list congressman," said Capulong.

Police said Beltran and Montano were arrested on the strength of the droopy's Executive Order No. 5.

"The evidence to be gathered is that they are part of a conspiracy to commit rebellion...to this is the latest," Lomibao said.

Montano said on the phone that he was with his wife and several golf mates at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, when a team of CIDG men arrived.

"They're going wild"

"They were too (a) go to Camp Crame ... to uncover some charges against me," he said. "I wanted to resist, but I got afraid."

Montano, on the phone, Montano said he also "insisted" his golf mates to go with him.

Montano had been playing golf with another retired police general, Sen. Ping Lacson, when Ms Arroyo declared the state of emergency.

"The situation is getting very bad. Senators are not afraid to criticize this government, now they want to lock up," Montano said. "They are no longer following the Constitution. This is the last straw. They are going wild."

He added, "They are screwing old men. Huwag!"

Leave thru backdoor

Police who went to Bulo to get Ocampo apparently did not notice the congressman as he left the place. The barrios instead went after the congressman's backup vehicle and took him in and an aide into custody. The two were released later.

Lawyer Neri Colmenares tried to stop the policemen by blocking their car's path.

Hearing that police had come to get Ocampo, other lawmakers who attended the press conference—Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales and their respective staff—remained in the house basement and left through the backdoor.

Lacsiño said the arrests were in line with GO No. 5 and were "not whimsical and arbitrary."

Plotters still out there

He said the military had effectively crushed the plot against the government "but some people responsible for it are still out there."

"It is our judgment anybody group or business establishment, will continue to the ensemble or other manner to conspiracy, we will carry out whatever (action) is reasonable, necessary and appropriate."

Lomibao couldn't when asked if Honasan was on the wanted list. He said police officers aren't if Honasan was at the top of the list.

Defensor said it was the National Security Council which made the final decision on who to arrest.

Defensor refused to say who would be arrested in the coming days.

He said that Ocampo and Beltran were on the arrest list not only because of their complicity in the plot to topple the administration but also because of murder cases filed by relatives of former comrades in arms killed by fellow communists.

Defensor refused to say how long the state of national emergency would be in effect but he did not expect to see the lifting of Proclamation No. 1017 any time soon.

With a report from PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JDV seeks dignified treatment for Beltran

SEEKING TO QUELL A firestorm, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday pledged to make sure detainees from the military and police in the lawmakers arrested under the emergency proclamation would receive "dignified and humane treatment."

"I will seek the highest assurances that their human rights are protected and respected," De Venecia said after meeting with House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and three other congressmen.

The meeting produced four points of agreements.

One involves a proposed for agreement by which the House arrest of any House member would have to be cleared through the Speaker and the minority leader.

De Venecia said the House would also make available legal assistance to any member facing arrest.

They also agreed that no congressmen would be arrested while Congress is in session, as provided for in the Constitution, for offenses punishable by six years' imprisonment or less.

Penalties involving punishment longer than six years, De Venecia said House members must respect the Constitution but they must have assurance that they would be treated with dignity.

Local execs back emergency rule

MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT executives and youth leaders have thrown their full support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency and called on her to apply the full force of the law on the suspected destabilizers in the group's peace and order, ensure public safety and crush all threats to national security.

In a press statement, they said: "We appealed to former President Gemma Aquino and to all people to be vigilant and cautious in the midst of the current political crisis."

The Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines led by its president Hector Peter Bl, secretary general Jonathan Gue Jr. and chair Allan Zubiaga said: "The PBMLP is committed to stand by the President and recognizes her as the duly elected legal and only President of the country until 2010. We are absolutely for the rule of law and are committed to abide by the provisions of the Philippine Constitution."

State has to defend itself

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panglilan said, "It is the bounden duty of the state to defend itself against those who seek to destroy the constitutional order and to safeguard the general welfare and public safety. The full force of the law must be employed against those who plot against the duly constituted authority."

"Re-democracy and rootless all ones and unconstitutional process of changing the powers government," the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines (VMLP) led by its national president, Muntinlupa City Vice Mayor Jaime Ejeta, said in a resolution.

Among those who signed the VMLP resolution were Vice Mayors Alex Avelino of Dagupan City, VMLP executive vice president; Cirilito Bayloa of Baroga, Albay, vice president for Luzon; Bienvito Hontiveros of Bacolod City, vice president for the Visayas; Alice Bellicar of Digos City, vice president for Mindanao; and Ronald Cavallas of Puerto Princesa, secretary general.

Youth support

The youth expressed support for the President and have urged all sectors to adhere to the principles of the Constitution.

"The National Movement of Young Legislators urges all citizens to abide by the provisions of the Constitution for the stability of our people and posterity. We join in the call for solidarity and national cohesion," MNYL national president Julian Cesario said.

Local officials across the country also expressed dismay at efforts by some rogue elements in Manila to topple the government at a time when the nation is on the verge of an economic takeoff.

"We appeal to our brothers in the military to please think of our country first, especially now that our economy is taking off. We also appeal to former President Cory Aquino to help preserve our country's democracy which everybody fought for in 1986," said Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar Perez, chairperson of the Regional Development Council for Western Visayas.

The Philippine Councilors League (PCL) led by its national chair Elmer Dalvan and national presidents Carlo Pontes Fortuno and the Filipino people will end up the victims in a trend of the victors in each attempt to change the government through extraconstitutional means.

Don't be misled

In a resolution, the PCL noted: "We call on our people not to be misled by the rebels' claim because the means they use is unacceptable there is strongly opposed to our democratically held principles of peace and nonviolence. The attempt is a plain and simple power grab where our Filipino people are not the victims but rather the victims."

Most local governments executives also said the foiled coup d'etat would not affect their economic prosperity and for them to reap the benefits of such efforts.

"We are not happy with what is going out there's in Manila because we in the outside are also affected but we hopefully our country's economy is starting to improve, the people in Manila are doing nothing but pull the country apart," said Cotabato Gov. Jesus Sacdalan, who also vice chair for Mindanao of the Consultative Commission on Constitutional Amendments.

Also municipalities

Also among those who have issued statements in support for President Arroyo and her declaration of a state of national emergency are executive members of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) led by Mayor Jerry Calderon of Bial, Nueva Ecija; Governors Luis Isabela; Governor Antonio Bonifacio, and Bonifacio Pineda, Pampanga.

Other local officials who rallied behind the President and her declaration of a state of national emergency were Gov. Benjamin Leong, Iloilo; Gov. Jesus Typoso Jr., Camarines Norte; Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers, Surigao del Norte; Governor Rafael Lee, Sorsogon; Governor Deogracias Victor Savellano, Negros Occidental; acting Gov. Ilas Mayor, Mindoro; Governor Jaime Ong, Bataan.

Mayor Jose Gularyo Jr., Valenzuela City; Subdistrict Mayor Jejomar Binay, Makati City; members Hons: Mayor Abdulahman Asbimen, Isnak, Iloilo; Mayor Guillermo Avero, Sinilloan, Laguna; Councilor Saul Imson, Bonaun City; Board Member Jil Bangit of Nueva Vizcaya and Becky Aquino of Surigao.

Today, the 1.7 million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) condemned Trillanes's "destabilization attempts by staging another coup d'etat with the military and the administration opposition" and reiterated their full support for the duly constituted government of President Arroyo and her declaration of a state of emergency to quell the disturbance.

Moreislent option

In a statement, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who is president of both ULAP and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), said that constitutional reform, and not extraconstitutional methods like military adventurism, is the only nonviolent and legal option for our people to overcome the crisis of governance.

"We appeal to our brothers in the military to please think of our country first, especially now that our economy is taking off. We also appeal to former President Cory Aquino to help preserve our country's democracy which everybody fought for in 1986," said Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar Perez, chairperson of the Regional Development Council for Western Visayas.

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Meanwhile, in Cebu City, president of the 117-member League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), Eutropio Tomas Tes Sen. Tomas Osmeña, ULAP spokesperson, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, LCP chairman, and Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Umali, LPP executive vice president, have all expressed support for the President and urged her to continue head-on those behind attempts to topple her administration.

More than 20 provincial governors and 80 municipal and city mayors, including 10 Metro Manila chief executives led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. have issued statements either recognizing or indicating they personally manifest their support for President Arroyo or sent their messages by mail.

FVR slams GMA: My support waning . . .

Front page A1

what it said was a coup plot, before Ms Arroyo proclaimed an emergency.

"People are readily panicking in the direction of our credit rating," he stressed, noting the slide of the peso on the day the issued the proclamation.

Ramos said that a very prominent spokesman for the opposition in the next election involving 12 elected directions, and which could have brought the government some $120,000 in value-added tax collections, had been cancelled because of the current situation. He did not identify the event.

Ramos reminded that Aquino never toyed with the idea of declaring a state of emergency despite having faced nine coup attempts, some of them bloody.

Not a coup attempt

Recalling the bombing of the armed forces headquarters by rebel soldiers led by then Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in 1989, Ramos said: "This AFP chief Gen. Renato de Villa and Gen. Fidel Ramos themselves elected 'Sovereign' by Honasan-led Coup declare a state of national emergency! Ha."

Asked about Trillan's discovery of a supposed coup plot allegedly to be led by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, Ramos said it was not even a coup in the real sense of the word.

"It is a threat but it is not in the sense of a coup attempt," he said.

Corrupting the military

He said he did not believe that there would be an Edsa People Power III because the military was still loyal to the President.

Ramos said that he had been approached by President Arroyo making moves that could further divide the country but to no avail.

He also accused Ms Arroyo of corrupting the military when she approved the allocation of some 1,000 hectares in Camp Tecson, Bulacan, home of the Army Scouts Rangers, for their housing project.

"She is coddling and corrupting the military (for) to actually (doing a) wedge between the military and the civilians in that command's. Why to the giving this to the military. What if the civilians get jealous?" he said.

Hardheaded President

Asked if the President was hopelessly "ruthless," Ramos said, "That is an understatement. Perhaps my elite (is) hardheaded. Absolute (she is difficult to relate)."

Ramos said he planned to visit his friend Montano, who was arrested yesterday and help secure his quick release. (Story on Page A13)

"It's a badge of honor under the present circumstances," Ramos said. "Even's worry about Montano. He's always been a tough warrior."

Asked if the felt he would be the next to be taken, Ramos said: "They will not arrest me. I hope. They will not because it's a badge of honor."

The country's newest cardinal made no direct reference to Ms Arroyo's emergency proclamation in a homily yesterday, but warned unnamed military adventurists as the "principal source of problems in democratic Philippines."

Setback for RP

"Military posturing of any kind, for any reason, severely reduces our position among the family of honorable nations, sets the country back in its business competitiveness, wreck availability the confidence of people and the value of its currency," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said.

"As in wars, it is seen as the military grabbing the supremacy from the civilian," he said in his first Mass in public on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of People Power I at the Edsa Shrine.

Personal sacrifice

Penalties and the occasion should also remind "those in government that the means of leadership and corrupt transactions must be addressed with unswerving transparency and with personal sacrifice."

While Filipinos resented the hereditary between tyranny and freedom 20 years ago, Rosales said the event could not be the "exclusive ownership of only the reformists, politicians, opportunists, military, the poor and the middle class or of the Church."

He spoke as the nuns Mona were former President Aquino and Ramos and a handful of Ms Arroyo critics who also played roles in the first Edsa revolution.

The two leaders were joined at the Mass by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and former 17 members Cimeron "Dinky" Doliente, Teresita "Ging" Deles, Filemon "Butch" Abad and Imelda Nicolas, former ambassadors to the Vatican Howard Dee and Henrietta de Villa, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano and Gilbert Remulla.

Envoy assures UN RP will respect human rights

By Nikko Dizon

ON THE DAY THE POLICE RAIDED a newspaper office and "took away his computers," newsroom area leaked to an alleged coup (First, a Filipino diplomat assured the United Nations the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo will respect human rights and due process despite the declaration of a state of national emergency.

The Department of Foreign Affairs secretary said the Philippine mission to the UN had explained the situation in Manila in a note verbale to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and all the member states of the global body.

"I assured the secretary general and member states that the Philippines and the government of President Arroyo remained stable and that the bill of rights and due process provided for in our Constitution were being observed despite the declaration of a state of national emergency to counter a planned military takeover," the DFA quoted Ambassador Lauro Baja, Philippine permanent representative to the UN, as saying.

Baja said UN member states appreciated "the inherent right of our government to defend and preserve our democratic institutions and ensure the safety and security of our people and the integrity of our state."

DADDY'S GIRL

This is what it's all about after Lili Arroyo walked over to her father, Miki Arroyo, for a hug and an exchange of comforting words at Malacañang's Heroes Hall hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency on Friday. AP/MLDN

Foreign gov'ts issue alerts but DOT says tourists safe

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURism said yesterday that the country remained safe for tourists even as foreign governments continued their reliance about traveling to the Philippines following the declaration of a state of emergency.

"We wish to advise the traveling public that travel to the Philippines continues to be safe," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said in a statement. "Tourist destinations remain safe, bolstered by the inherent warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people."

He said it was "business as usual" for tourist facilities and encouraged travelers throughout the country.

Robert Uwan Barbers, general manager of DOT's implementing arm, the Philippine Tourism Authority, also reported that tourists in the provinces remained undisturbed by the disturbances in Manila.

"Everything is under control in the Philippines," Barbers said in an interview.

Durano and Barbers said tourists and law enforcement agencies were coordinating their activities to ensure the safety of all tourists.

Last Friday, the US Embassy in Manila advised Americans in the country to make prudent steps to ensure their personal safety during what it called an "uncertain time."

Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said that by "prudent steps" were meant that American nationals were being advised to register with the embassy and "avoid large crowds, demonstrations or any places where there may be violent confrontations between protestors and the police."

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade also warned its citizens going to or living in the Philippines about heightened tensions in Manila.

The Hong Kong Security Bureau said it was closely monitoring developments in the Philippines and called on travelers here during Ang to seek help at the Chinese Embassy when needed.

Malaysia urged its citizens traveling to the Philippines to exercise caution.

"I hope Malaysians who want to go the Philippines will obtain the latest information on the situation. If it is safe, then it should not be an obstacle for their visit," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar's spokesman quoted as saying by TVS.

Hamid urged Malaysians already in the country to avoid places where mass protests were being held to ensure their safety.

With an AFP report

Docu on Edsa shown tonight

EDSA, THAT HEROIC MOMENT IN HISTORY when the beginning of the country's search for genuine change, according to Eugenio Spread, chair of the Foundation for World, with People Power (FWPP), a people power advocacy group.

Now comes a 90-minute video documentary that relives the tumultuous Edsa Revolution of two decades ago.

Produced by FWPP Taho 1986: Ilipa Tang ang Alaalang Ito," will be broadcast in TGP tonight over ABS-CBN Channel 2. It is directed by award-winning documentarist Raymond Red and has as script by Boots and Raul Rodrigo.

An MTV of a new original song by rock diva Rhoda Rodal will cap the 90-minute documentary.

"The real goal of the People Power Revolution was not a mere change of regimes but rather of genuine social transformation," said Aportal, who is also the founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and publisher of the tabloid Mr. & Ms. Special Editions, one of the leading papers that openly opposed the Marcos regime.

Representing the generation that was a fetus, aspect composer Jun Peredo finds the current younger generation, responded by TV presenter Ally Bravo Gonzales, born in September 1972, when Aquino declared martial law. Ai-Zamora

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Oil companies slash pump prices by 50¢ per liter

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSIVE PRICE hikes, oil firms yesterday reduced the pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter as crude oil prices in the international market have started to ease.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Seaoil Petroleum Corp., Total (Philippines) Corp. also slashed gasoline prices by 45 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene prices by the same levels as its competitors.

New player Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. initiated the price reduction on Friday, decreasing prices of gasoline products by P1 a liter and of diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter.

The price reduction brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.12 and P38.43 per liter, diesel to between P30.83 and P31.94 per liter, and kerosene to between P32.48 and P33.72 per liter.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude had dropped to a February average of $57.60 per barrel (bbl) from a January average of $59.44 per barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also declined to $64.79 per barrel in the first 23 days of February from $66.79 per barrel last month.

All 6% hated diesel also fell to an average of $52.92 per barrel in the Feb. 1-23 period from the January average of $53.14 per barrel.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said world oil prices had started to ease this month after hitting an all-time high of $70 per barrel last year mainly due to the unrest in oil-producing country Nigeria and concerns about Iran's nuclear project.

"We have wanted to see some easing of world oil prices this month after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (Opec) unanimous decision on Jan. 31 to maintain production in the second quarter," he said.

"In fact, international prices are now on a downtrend, an indication that sail sometimes provide some relief to oil importing countries like the Philippines," he added.

Still, however, raised the price of its liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos a liter.

The new price translates to a per-cylinder price of LPG that rises in a second high $625.58 per metric ton (MT) from $563 per MT in January.

Since the start of the year, gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices have only gone down twice by a total of P1 a liter, but have risen twice by a total of P1.20 a liter.

LPG prices have risen four times by P2.17 centavos per kilogram or P35.87 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

LPG now sells for between P586.23 and P950.13 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

GMA visits trade show under heavy guard

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS AFTER declaring a state of national emergency, President Macapagal-Arroyo ventured out of the Palace under very heavy security yesterday to attend a fundraising ball, also exhibit organized by a businessman and presidential adviser.

The President's Black Mercedes Benz was flanked and trailed by a convoy of more than a dozen vehicles as she went to a shopping mall at the Southside Global City in Taguig City, site of the "Go Negosyo" summit and trade expo organized by presidential adviser for entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion.

Although she sported eye bags from apparent lack of sleep, the President's spirit lit up as she was mobbed by the shoppers mobbed her like a movie star as she stepped on the escalator surrounded by at least five shoes in bodyguards. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor noted that Ms Arroyo had had a good night yesterday after going sleepless Friday.

Despite the claimed existence of a "clear and present danger" to her administration, the President braved the crowded mall where she was cheered warmly by the summit participants.

"You are the genuine people power," she told 10 teenagers who were hired as the country's future entrepreneurs by their business ideas, which ranged from organic soaps for resorts to a travel agency for disabled persons.

Defensor said the President wanted to send a strong message on where her true priorities lay—the economy ... by going to this event while her subversion tens was under siege.

The President had canceled all her scheduled activities from Friday through the weekend except for Concepcion's invitation. And the indictment of 27 people for rebellion by giving her a warm welcome despite being tagged by pollsters as the most unpopular Philippine president.

For the second straight day, Malacañang denied that a firewood-sale container van had cut off the arm of a giant mass at the major arrow prime. Soldiers to full battle gear were all over the place.

GMA allies allow protests

DAVAO CITY – MAYOR RODRIGO Duterte of this city and Mayor Osmeña Governor Lito Lorenzo Osmeña, both allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, are defying the ban on protest demonstrations imposed by the President's proclamation of a state of national emergency last Friday.

"We live in a democracy," Duterte said, adding the city would allow protests for as long as they were not violent.

"The right to peaceful assembly must be observed and protected," he said.

Duterte said he supported Mrs Arroyo's proclamation but maintained that the right to dissent should not be curtailed. "So as long as (protest activities) are conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner."

"The more we allow (people) to voice out their views, the more we let off political steam and diffuse tension," Osmeña told the Inquirer.

Osmeña called on the president's police to be tolerant of the "people's expression of their political sentiments."

But ordinary should skip Davao City and the town of Cleto, both in Misamis Occidental.

Oriental City Mayor Reynaldo Uy Sr. and Cleto Mayor David Navarro warned activists against staging rallies amounting to the unending order of the President." Both said they were not inclined to issue any rally permits.

In Jolo, Sulu, a scheduled rally against the June SPLG military exercises in Balikatan was cancelled yesterday.

Temjuko Talanto, convenor of the Concerned Citizens of Sulu, said the group decided to cancel the rally because "our members remain in the mountains, warnings and words, for instance."

He said officers of the 104th Army Brigade under Brig. Gen. Nebrinias Pajarito "have warned our supporters to be away with the anti-Balikatan and anti-American rallies."

"Definitely we were all afraid," Talanto said. Ryan-B Rosario, Dennis Jay C. Santos and Julie S. Alipala, INQ Mindanao Bureau

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 21 column—"Grand mercury"—of Juan L. Mercado, the name of former Sen. Rodjiro Aquino was misspelled.

* * *

IN THE FEB. 23 issue, a front-page story — "When suicide bombers" — misstated the first name of a soldier who fell in February 1986 in Philippine Constabulary Task Force in is Fight against rebels. The soldier's name is Col. Teodorico Nebaja — not Col. Alfredo Nebaja.

Labor group bats for more health care jobs in Japan

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF the Philippines yesterday rallied on the government to insist on the backburner a bilateral free trade agreement with Japan that has widened ire to granting Filipino workers "real and ready access" to Japan's lucrative health care labor market.

The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement should not only be a "demand-based" deployment of Filipino nurses and caregivers to Japan, not the quota-based system that Tokyo wants, according to TUCP general secretary Ernesto Herrera.

"There is a huge pent-up demand for foreign health care workers in Japan due to its rapidly aging population but Filipino workers like opportunity to earn this requirement," Herrera said.

Last week, Labor Undersecretary Emilio Gonzalez said reports that the newly executed deadlocked bruise of a disagreement on how many Filipino health care workers would be allowed to enter Japan.

Japan, the country's steward, Gonzalez said, has proposed to admit to 100 the number of Filipino health workers that would be allowed to work there.

The Philippines wants the number to be demand-based, or as many as the market can accommodate.

Citing a study by Nomura Capital Management Inc., Herrera said the Japanese population was aging faster than that of any other country so that Japan would soon have only two able-bodied workers for every retiree.

Herrera said the establishment of Filipino workers in Japan would help redress because of the lingering effects of the strict employment rules for foreign entertainers earlier implemented by the Japanese government.

The former senator said Roughly [illegible] Filipino workers in Japan sent home $536.46 million in 2005, up 36 percent from $395.12 million in 2004.

But the $536.46 million was still $103.54 million, or 27 percent, less than the $499.44 million that they remitted in 2002, just before the stiffening rules for foreign entertainers were announced, Herrera pointed out.

He added that the $103.54 million, or $7.4 billion, difference meant a lot of lost income that otherwise would have sustained hundreds of thousands of poor families.

The $536.46 million was even less than the $579.09 million that Filipino workers in Japan remitted in 2003.

In contrast, the remittances from Hong Kong-based Filipino workers soared 137 percent over the past five years, from $146.84 million in 2000 to $348.09 million in 2005, Herrera said.

Jerome Aning

Floods hampering Central Luzon rehab from Mt. Pinatubo eruptions

By Tonette Orejas
Philippine Daily Inquirer

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE REBUILDing of Central Luzon after the devastation wrought by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and its lost flows in 1991 was "far from finished," an official of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has said.

Dennis Mercado, the chief representative of JBIC to the Philippines, cited floods in the region as a "critical" problem.

Mercado said the JBIC "remains steadfast in our commitment to finish the challenging job that we have started and we will be with you until the task of recovering from the wakes of the Pinatubo eruption is finally completed."

"To this end, it is gratifying to note that the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) and implementing agencies under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jaded) master plans and identify and exhibit the priority of the remaining projects [clear] In order to complete the recovery of the areas," he said in a speech during a recent workshop on the Pinatubo hazards signal infrastructure projects (PHIVOLCS).

Mercado said the JBIC had extended loans totaling 37.324 billion yen to two PHIVOLCS plants.

Ed Villanueva, chief of the DPWH's Mount Pinatubo emergency project management office, said under Phase 2, dikes were built on the Sacobia-Bamban River basin in Tarlac, the Abacia-Bacbac River basin in Pampanga, the Gumain River and the Mabalacat-Bamban bridge are repaired, all at a total cost of P1.3 billion.

Under Phase 2, which was focused on the Pasig-Potrero River basin in Pampanga, the reinforcement work on the PNR megadike was completed and raised, the Balogo channel was improved, the San Fernando-Santo Tomas-Mexico road dike was fortified, the pilot channel of the Sliod River was dredged and the Mancatian bridge and access roads to and from Angeles City and Porac-Gotad were rehabilitated.

The engineering interventions included the construction of sabo dams and other mitigation works and the removal of the transportation network on the Angeles, Bitas-navy road.

Overnight agreement such as the Sectoral Economic and Development Assistance Authority on studying the PHIVOLCS Phase 3 to have this it endorsed to the JBIC.

Under this phase, flood control work will be carried out at the Panic Delta and the Panic Gumain River in southern Pampanga, where the Pampanga River drains to Manila Bay.

The Export-Import Bank of Korea is also getting tapped to fund some components of the project.

Villanueva said the rehabilitation efforts cover an area of 4,000 square meters that were affected by the 1991 eruptions and succeeding lahar or volcanic mudflows.

The Pinatubo lahar disaster "has been one of the most extensively funded disaster response programs of the government.

The defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission had spent over P56 billion in assistance. The Office of Civil Defense Agency for International Development alone channeled 443 million to the region in 1991.

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Gueco

Saudis foil bid to blow up oil plant

RIYADH—THE SAUDI BRANCH OF THE AL-QAIDA terror network has claimed responsibility for Friday's foiled attempt to blow up a major Saudi Arabian oil processing plant.

"The heroic mujahideen of the squadron of Sheikh Osama bin Laden, God protect him, has successfully penetrated the oil and gas refinery in the town of Abqaiq ... where two car bombs were able to destroy," the "Organization of al-Qaida in the Arab Peninsula" wrote in a statement on its website overnight Friday.

Saudi Arabia said earlier that it had foiled an attack against its biggest oil processing plant, the first time it has admitted that any militant group, although against an installation in the world's top oil producer since a wave of al-Qaida terror broke out.

The Opec kingpin rushed to reassure nowhere that output was affected by the thwarted attack on the world's largest oil-producing center in the oil-rich Eastern Province [illegible] at least four people dead.

A security official said that two security men and at least two attackers were killed in the attempted suicide car bomb attack on the complex.

The security men succumbed to serious wounds sustained while trying to stop the attackers.

It was still not known if there were more than two people in the two cars which attempted to penetrate the processing plant, the official said.

The Saudi interior ministry earlier said the vehicles exploded near the entrance of the facility.

The official said that six workers of state oil giant Saudi Aramco "sustained slight wounds from the explosion."

According to oil sources, the attackers were Yemeni militants and used cars jammed in the company's token for the attempted attack.

The vehicles "exploded near the entrance and damage was limited to a small fire which was brought under control ... Production operations were not affected," an interior ministry statement said.

"These plants contribute to the pillage of oil wealth from the Muslims," the al-Qaida cell claimed, vowing to publish later details of the operations which it said were carried out in the name of the fugitive Bin Laden, head of the al-Qaida terror network, and hailing the two "martyrs."

"This experience is a free setting-up exercise carried out by al-Qaida in its war against the Christians and Jews to stop their pillage of Muslim riches and as part of a campaign to clean them out of the Arab peninsula," read the website message. On authenticity of which could not be ascertained.

"These heroes are an honorable model for the youth of Islam in the Arab peninsula. There are many more. They burn with impatience to fight the enemies of Allah among the Jews, the Christians and their servants, the rulers in apostate governments. They share the sufferings endured by their Muslim brothers in Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere."

In a December 2003 audio message, Bin Laden called on his supporters to attack oil installations, "in particular in Iraq and in the Gulf."

Saudi Arabia, which sits on a quarter of global oil reserves, currently pumps around 9.5 million barrels of oil per day and has a output capacity of 11 million bpd. AFP

AN UNIDENTIFIED video grab of Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil facility. Two cars exploded at the gates of the facility on Feb. 24, when security forces fired on suicide bombers trying to storm the world's biggest oil processing plant. AFP

Building crumbles in B'desh, traps workers

DHAKA—A FIVE-STORY BUILDING housing a garment factory, shops and offices collapsed in the Bangladeshi capital Saturday, killing at least three people and leaving many others trapped, officials said.

Soldiers, police, fire officials and hundreds of volunteers rushed to the scene to pull out victims trapped under the razed in Phoenix Building in the city's congested industrial area.

"Many workers were in the factory when the building collapsed," the deputy commissioner of Dhaka police, Obaidur Rahman, said.

Rescuers were using bulldozers and cutters to break through and reach those trapped by heavy slabs of concrete which was being shifted by cranes.

Some rescuers were frantically digging at debris with their bare hands as the relatives of the missing looked on anxiously.

"We can hear noises of cries for help," firefighter Rezaul Islam said. AFP

Denmark makes overtures to Muslims in cartoon row

COPENHAGEN—RESPONDING TO CALM MUSLIM anger over cartoonists of the Prophet Muhammad, Denmark will hold a religious conference, make a donation to a UN agency fighting prejudice and wage a Muslim-affiliated exhibition.

Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller outlined the plans in a video sent to Arab television stations. The anti-Islamic cartoons, first printed in a Danish newspaper, sparked riots by Muslims around the world.

"The message is that we have listened to criticism from abroad and must launch a number of forward-looking and constructive initiatives aimed at promoting respectful dialogue," a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

In another development, Denmark said its ambassador to Syria would return to Damascus on Sunday, almost three weeks after Muslims set fire to the embassy to protest against the cartoons.

Many Muslims feel it is blasphemous to depict the Prophet.

Earlier this month, Denmark's embassy in Lebanon was set on fire and the Danish envoys to Indonesia and Iran had to leave after their residences were attacked. Denmark's envoy returned to Jakarta this week.

The 12 cartoonists were first printed by 26 March-drawn in September and reprinted elsewhere, sparking protests by Muslims and putting media freedom against religious sensitivities.

Denmark's largest circulation tabloid, Ekstra Bladet, gave its "Victor Prize" to Ahlem-Jyllands-Posten on Thursday night for its defense of freedom of speech since running the cartoons. The prize is named for a former editor of Ekstra Bladet.

Muslims have demanded an official apology from the Nordic country, which has around 350 troops in Iraq. But Denmark has refused to apologize on behalf of the paper.

"In Denmark there is a particular respect for the religious feelings of other people and we acknowledge that many Muslims have felt greatly insulted by these controversial drawings," Moeller said.

His statement is on a foreign ministry website set up for the cartoon crisis, www.denmarkmedia.dk.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for:

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Benguet	Mankayan Elementary School	Partial Construction of Two (2) Storey - Six (6) Classroom School Building	Php [illegible]
2	Cebu City	Cebu Central Elementary School	Completion of Three Storey School Building (Right Wing)	Php [illegible]
3	Cebu City	Talamban National High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	Php [illegible]
		Inayawan Elementary School	Construction Four (4) Storey School Building	

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for this prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Receipt from Prospective Bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 2-10, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 2-17, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 2-17, 2006; DepED Central Office
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 2-13, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006; DepED Central Office
Eligibility Screening	March 14-16, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006; DepED Central Office
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 17, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006; DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006; DepED Central Office
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 17, 2006 - April 17, 2006; DepED Central Office or CAR Regional Office	March 24, 2006 - May 2, 2006; DepED Central Office or Regional Office No. IX, X, Tomas G. Dizon City	March 24, 2006-May 8, 2006; DepED Central Office or Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006, 10:00 AM; CAR Regional Office, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	April 14, 2006, 10:00 AM; Regional Office No. IX, X, Tomas G. Dizon City	April 28, 2006, 10:00 AM; Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 10, 2006, 10:00 AM; CAR Regional Office, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	May 2, 2006, 10:00 AM; Regional Office No. IX, X, Tomas G. Dizon City	May 5, 2006, 10:00 AM; Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at DepED Central Office, BAC Secretariat Office, 9th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of: **Php 1,000.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bills of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BADUR S. MARCHOMBRAR
BAC Vice Chairperson

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Investigators recover part of money stolen in Britain's biggest bank robbery

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LONDON—BRITISH POLICE SAID FRIDAY they had recovered part of the money stolen in what may be Britain's biggest bank robbery but released three suspects arrested in connection with the theft.

Investigators found "a quantity of cash" in a van, the officer in charge of the investigation, Commissioner Adrian Leppard said, adding that the amount found has not yet been determined.

Television pictures showed police officers removing several apparently heavy black plastic sacks.

Police are keeping the three released suspects under observation. They earlier issued an identikit portrait of one of the robbers, a tall man with freckles and a ginger beard which Leppard said may have been fake.

The theft Thursday from a safe deposit in Tottenham, southeast of London, is believed to have netted up to 50 million pounds ($67.5 million).

A 41-year-old woman was questioned on suspicion of handling stolen goods after she was detained Thursday trying to bank e-mail of banknotes at a building society (credit union) in south London.

"This woman went into the Peterson Building Society in Bromley and had cash with her which she was banking and it had banknote markings on it," New (Police assistant chief constable Adrian Leppard said.

"I want to stress something to you. This woman would be completely innocent. But it was an obvious action by the building society and the Metropolitan Police [in London] at that time and we are active in the investigation."

Two other people—a 29-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman—were arrested Thursday in connection with Tuesday's audacious armed raid on the Securitas cash depot in Tottenham, southeast of London.

"We have got professional gangsters that we need to catch," Leppard said, stressing that several lines of inquiry have been opened. "We are going to bring these people to book."

Police said a Volvo sedan thought to have been used in the heist had been found—on fire—late Thursday in Loody village in Kent. They have recovered four other vehicles, all of which are being examined for any forensic clues.

Detectives were still hunting for the white Renault truck used by the robbers to transport the cash—both new and used banknotes—from the depot.

Police have confirmed that 25 million pounds has been stolen, but Leppard has said that continuing investigations might put the figure "as high as 50 million, or even 70 million."

He urged people with any information to contact police, reminding them of the two million pound reward on offer. AFP

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Bird flu claims 20th victim in Indonesia

JAKARTA—BIRD FLU HAS KILLED its 20th human victim in Indonesia, a 27-year-old woman, including 19 tests by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, an Indonesian health ministry official said on Saturday.

The woman—several years a day after the country banished hundreds of thousands of chicks on poultry in Jakarta, where 600 food have been culled in a bid to halt the spread of the avian flu.

"We have now received the test result from CDC Atlanta. Yulia (the victim) was positive," said Runizal Widiarsono, director general of control of animal-borne diseases at the health ministry.

The 27-year-old woman died last Monday after being admitted to the Sukanti Sumo hospital in Jakarta, which is designated to treat patients showing bird flu symptoms.

Local tests are not considered definitive. The CDC laboratory tests are among those recognised by the World Health Organisation. ces.

A hospital spokesperson had said the woman had contact with dead chickens in her neighborhood.

Of Indonesia's confirmed fatalities, bene- the H5N1 virus, since have been in 2005, making Indonesia the country with the most fatalities in the world so far this year.

So far more victims of bird flu globally have had direct or indirect contact with chickens, but there are fears the virus will mutate into a strain easily passed among people, causing a pandemic in which millions could die.

More than 90 people have been killed because of the virus worldwide.

The highly pathogenic strain of bird flu has affected birds in about two-thirds of Indonesia's provinces.

Adam Murad, a senior city official, said the 600 food were slaughtered and buried at various locations in Jakarta where keeping backyard chickens is a norm among the 12-million residents and a number has said reporting of new cases among food, which in turn could lead to more human cases, is not as efficient as it should be.

"So far the residents have been quite responsive to the campaign. There is no resistance from the people whom we have to cull their chickens," Adam said.

Indonesian officials estimate that Jakarta has some 300,000 food.

As part of the precaution drive, hundreds of inspectors continued on Saturday to scour the sprawling capital and spray disinfectant around many backstreet stalls.

Controlling the virus is a huge, if not impossible, task in Indonesia, an archipelago of about 17,000 islands and 220 million people.

The government has ordered the mass culling of bird tests in some other nations, citing the expense and the impracticality in a country where the keeping of a few chickens or ducks in backyards of homes is widely practiced in cities as well as the countryside.

Agencies have commissioned instead an selective culling, and on public education and hygiene measures aimed at prevention. Reuters

Curfew halts Iraq bloodshed

BAGHDAD—A CURFEW IN BAGHDAD and calls for Muslim unity at Friday prayers across Iraq eased sectarian violence that has caused fears of civil war but, amid clashes after dark, police banned cars from the roads for another day.

Gunmen, some firing rockets, attacked Sunni mosques in two Baghdad districts, including the Sunnis' revered Abu Hanifa shrine, police said, adding that police and Iraqi troops expelled assailants who were the black of Shi'ite militias.

Casualties would add to the 200 dead in Baghdad alone since mortars against an easily Sunni mosque began with a bombed al-Qadir bombing of a Shiite shrine on Wednesday igniting Iraq into its worst crisis since US forces set in 2003.

"This is a moment of shooting for the Iraqi people," said President George W Bush, who hopes moved to violence can let him bring US troops home. "The coming days will be serious."

Sunni and Shiite clerics and political leaders have made great efforts said the situation is better" a senior Shiite politician said "But ... Iraq is still in the danger zone."

Officials said the daylight curfew, imposed on Friday and largely successful in suspending sectarian bloodshed during the day, would now last for vehicles until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Commanders said a 10 rapid reaction force was in position. Reuters

icasso, Monet, Dali and Matisse aintings stolen from Rio museum

RIO DE JANEIRO—GUNMEN ...ed Rio de Janeiro art museum today of three most valuable ...ings including a Picasso, Monet and Dali, the Glaucoz ...n museum director said. ...e gunmen also snagged five ...rks inside the museum, di... Sosa de Alencar told re... ...ey said at least four men ...shing firearms—including ... that held a hand ...grenade—broke into museum and made off with four paintings and a book.

director told the paintings cover the most valuable in the museum's collection and included Pablo Picasso's "The Dancer" and a book by him titled "Toros," Claude Monet's "Matinee," Henri Matisse's "Garden of Luxembourg" and Salvador Dali's "Two Bob riders."

She said the robbers knew exactly what they were taking. "Dali's picture, for example, is the only one by him in public exhibition in Latin America."

Three men ran immediately out, more hands of the value of the stolen paintings.

The gunmen forced museum staff to disconnect the alarm and camera system before the heist, then disappeared into the vast crowds of carnival-goers outside in Guy Dad. AFP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Embracing Edsa

Editorial

TWENTY YEARS IS ENOUGH TIME TO AFFORD one an objective vantage point from which to evaluate the significance, or lack of one, of a historical goalpost. But instead of objective and discerning assessments of the gains and losses of the 1986 revolution, the nation is getting a muddled, much like the one that buried tragically a town in Southern Leyte, of revisionism, acrimony and revisionism.

Worse, perhaps, the nation is ribbing less historical amnesia than can only examines the corruptors and opportunists of the past, but eschews them with a ritual aura that somehow results in an exaltation of the period before the revolution, romanticizing it to the point that everything that came after it seemed like paradise lost. The implication here is that 20 years after Edsa, with all its squandered opportunities and dashed hopes, there had suddenly emerged a justification for the obliteration not only of the legacy of the revolution, but of people power itself. A nation of liars or morons seems here on remembering the nostalgia of dictatorship, and the fascists and cronies of the past seem to be in a unique position to regain paradise for themselves.

It does not help, of course, that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, itself the beneficiary of the Edsa legacy, is beleaguered by questions of legitimacy so that it naively rests underwriting itself by a proper celebration of the revolution. Confronted with a challenge by dissident military men and their civilian incarnations who are imbrowned with the virus of military adventurism engendered by the Marcos dictatorship, the President is hardly in a position to convince people power to shield the democratic regime. With the legitimacy of her presidency in question, she does not have the moral ascendancy to invoke people power and defend the constitutional order.

But we should resist any attack on the democratic and constitutional order. We should be reminded what Edsa was all about, and why keeping its memory alive is important. Edsa was a fight against tyranny, a struggle between good and evil. Filipinos who lived through the terrible years of the Marcos dictatorship know that Edsa was neither short of a holy war. It was nothing short of a battle between light and darkness.

If Edsa is sometimes painted in terms of a miracle, it is not only because its victory was astounding. It was a victory against all odds. It was something totally unexpected because it violated all natural laws of reason and human calculation. It was a supernatural event.

If there are detractors of Edsa, they are those who protect its supernatural dimensions. The Marcos loyalists and many in the Left denounce it as totally exploitable, owing its success to American interference and even machinations by the US Central Intelligence Agency. These were the same people who had insisted that Marcos was invincible and irremovable precisely because of American sponsorship and support. When the successor files in their face, they had to insist that the Americans had switched sides, in effect denouncing the people who were against Marcos' troops and tanks with nothing but a prayer and a hope that they would prevail with God's help.

There is, then, a dismissive attitude of democracy and the people among detractors of the Edsa revolution. It is a dangerous attitude because it carries within it the seeds of fascism. It is an anti-democratic attitude.

Edsa was a democratic revolution. It was a historic event because it reaffirmed the power and authority of the people to control and direct their destiny. If we look back to the memory of Edsa, it is because we look back to that singular moment of history in which we drew forth from the power of our solidarity and used that power to change things for the better.

Edsa's validity and power derive mainly from its memory. We hold this memory dear in the midst of so much disappointment and frustration. This memory is potent as shown by the other countries that followed its example in order to spark their own people power revolutions. Edsa signaled a democratic transition not only in the nation but also in other nations with repressive regimes. It unleashed the pro-democracy tide that swept South Korea, Poland, Hungary, Germany and the rest of the world.

The spirit of Edsa is not dead. It lives on. If not for it, we would have no vantage point from which to evaluate our democratic progress, how much we have achieved and how much we have fallen short of the ideal. Edsa remains a barometer of all of our noblest aspirations as a people. Edsa is an ideal and a hope we should continue to embrace.

The melted mountain

Separate Opinion

Dayanara A. Cruz

IT WAS INCREDIBLE EVEN AS AN IMMEDIATE memory. A mountain suddenly melted into a muddy flood that descended nightly in a deep-y town before like an angry river that could not be resisted or appeased. There was no warning, like thunder in the skies or torrential rains from the nimbus clouds. First it was there as a centuries-old part of the natural scenery, its fixedness and inborn fortunated by the people in Southern Leyte. Then it had turned into a terrible monster from the bowels of the earth to claim the lives of unwary and innocent victims, including little children.

The staggering story filled the nation with shock and bewilderment, and, especially, compassion for the dead and those that survived but lived and left. How and why did the tragedy happen? Was it a punishment from Heaven like the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their sinfulness? Was the worst notorious for its wickedness as a hideout of drug traffickers or murderers as known of the refuge of Fugitives from the law (Judas they had loved

People Power

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN THE MAGAZINE'S ISSUE HERE, EDICS are edited by Ani Rocharo Ajanil, who has written many articles on the Philippines in the past, makes some observations about People Power. "In 1986, Filipino optimism ends it with a power political nod that has bred vast of billions of people oppressed by their rulers. Bu [illegible] Filipino pharmaceutical People Power looks good just about everywhere but the glory of its birth . . . Coup attempts are disgruntled officers and soldiers are a chronic problem. Corruption never subsided and though the Philippines is not the most corrupt country in the world—93% of Filipinos are known—the economy has never shown Asian Tiger mettle."

Perhaps, the events of the past few days have convinced the church head for that Filipino "democracy" is here to stay. It is also not to make a chief of members of recent events, but what is obvious is that in the Philippine context, for a people power movement to succeed, three elements are needed, a critical mass on the streets, withdrawal of support by key military elements and active participation by senior church officials. All three were present in Edsa I and II, all were missing during last Friday's drama. Given intense security havoc, harsh police and military, were able to disperse the crowds. Without the support of different and diverse forces into the critical mass needed for success. There was no withdrawal of support by military units with the chain of command remaining intact. Most important of all, there was no

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jcsemerad@inquirer.com.ph

Edsa I and the Left

Edsa I and the Left

Edsa I and the Left

Across the NATION

SCENE of the fiesta in the flower parade bore the signs of the times.

Flower fest bore signs of unrest in GMA gov't

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—FLOWERS ARE THE MOTIF FOR the annual Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival. But on its 11th staging here on Saturday, the flowers drew varied meanings for people extolling President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

Some blame Manila residents for the capital for Baguio to escape the political crisis by vacationing in Panagbenga.

"It's literally too drove in Manila. As we were about to attend the rally in Cubao (in connection to its 20th anniversary), four [sic] decided to come [to Baguio] instead," said Baggie Pagbilawan of Sampaloc, Manila.

Pagbilawan was wearing his original yellow "Gloy Agaton for President Movement" shirt, which jibed with one of the dominant colors of the float parade in this year's festival.

The flowers were by participants from Mandaluyong, Kalinga, Ingorrotad hope for me," said a visitor who only wanted to be identified as Lorna.

She spent an hour waiting for the parade by reading the news.

At early on 7 a.m., vans of Baguio residents were busy parking over newspaper accounts of the state of emergency declaration on the sidewalks of Session Road.

The Saturday parade was one of two Independent festival highlights that were produced this year by two contending organizers.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon of the festival opening ceremonies, spilled to the street and followed the float to take snapshots of the festivities led by grand winner from Tanauan, Aura Hilltop Tay Alcaraz, Ali Magtayao, Qiz Alcala, Rosario Segovia and Cassandra Ortiz, among others.

The Department of Tourism refers to Panagbenga as the model by which other local government-sponsored festivals are developed in the country.

Thirteen said he wanted to discourage the media abroad legacy of the festival.

But residents and visitors who watched the parade shielded in the float hearing the "Sesquicentennial" of the hit reality television show "Pinoy Big Brother" passed them.

Many people shout of festive carrying camera phones, spilled to the street and followed the float to take snapshots of the festivities led by grand winner from Tanauan, Aura Hilltop Tay Alcaraz, Ali Magtayao, Qiz Alcala, Rosario Segovia and Cassandra Ortiz, among others.

Mayor not yet cleared of slay

By Tonyets Ginjas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE DEPARTment of Justice has ordered a new investigation of the possible link of Mayor Jaime Flaviz of Dingalan, Aurora, to the 2005 murder of a local publisher.

In a three-page resolution, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco referred to the National Bureau of Investigation and the police the "for the immediate arrest of the possible involvement of Flaviz, as well as of other persons," in the murder of Bonifacio Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin.

The order was dated Jan. 26 but signatory relatives received it only on Feb. 24.

There were "not enough [pieces of] evidence at this point to establish the involvement of the mayor in the May 18, 2005 murder, Velasco said in the resolution ending the case's preliminary investigation.

He said the second only judicial confession of one of the three suspects, Reynaldo Moreno, was not enough to find Flaviz to be criminally liable.

Moreno, however, said, made several inconsistencies in his two affidavits even as he claimed that he witnessed Flaviz order two other suspects, Nilo Morelo and Manuel Aldag in April 2005 to kill Agustin for a series of stories that exposed the mayor's alleged use of illegal drugs. The Moreno are cousins.

The killing happened in the house of Agustin's daughter a few hours after the publisher arrived in Dingalan to celebrate the repair of his newsweekly's special issue on Flaviz's supposed misuse of public funds.

Agustin was the 67th journalist killed since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines.

In the 001 resolution, the Moreno, Aldag and several unidentified persons were ordered indicted for the murder.

However, the police have yet to arrest Nilo Moreno alias Boyet and Aldag, who known as Manuel. They were last seen in Dingalan on Jan. 31 last year, reports said.

'Tsunami' scare sparks evacuation

By Alan Pol
PDI Visayas Bureau

SUMAGUEL CITY—Thousands of residents from the coastal towns of Dauin, Zamboanguita, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan and Basay fled their homes and sought the safety of higher ground Thursday over a rumor that a tsunami was going to hit southern Negros Oriental Thursday night.

The tsunami rumor started from a text message that circulated like wildfire after an intensely 7.8 earthquake struck somewhere in Africa Thursday morning.

A tsunami that killed thousands of people across Asia in December 2006 was triggered by a landslide in Indonesia.

Police have already declared the one message in a feud Thursday night, but there was no official warning the evacuations. Metro Dumaguete, Negros Oriental police provincial director, said the text message was originally sent by someone from Hong Kong who sent the text message to relatives in Negros Oriental after hearing about the African earthquake.

Despite the denial, calm in many of Dauin's towns, nearly half of 1,000 residents walked more than 300 steps uphill to seek safety near the church's lighthouse.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Cheers, jeers for state of emergency

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's declaration of a state of emergency has elicited various reactions from the people of Mindanao.

Although some sectors aired their support to the declaration, many felt it was not necessary.

The Southern Command, the largest military stand-by in the country has placed its troops under a red alert status and condemned in no uncertain terms all reports of rebellious moves by coup plotters.

Defying the declaration, militant have aired their disappointment by staging protests.

In Cotabato City, hundreds of Muslim demonstrators flocked to the city plaza and denounced the declaration.

In Cagayan de Oro City, policemen disarmed some 1,000 people attending an anti-Arroyo rally in Divisoria.

But in Davao City, hundreds of protesters were considered scant as they called on Mindanao to stop dozing.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte vowed to uphold the people's right to assembly as long as protest actions remained peaceful.

Excerpts from some of the reactions:

"We condemn the declaration, which would further suppress the people's cry for a change in our government." **–Edmundo Hespelanza**, Bonifacio Bangsamoro national deputy secretary general

"We are ready to be arrested." **–Randy Bustamante**, Kabataan Alliance

"Mechanisms are outdated into these series of plots to destabilize the government. We as a people must stand up and protect the rule of law and the Constitution." **–Romeo Enera**, vice president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Misamis chapter

"She has made the right decision, but the rights of the people should be protected and respected." **–Auxiliary Bishop Honorio Ino Juniosa**

Suppose the President has still abuse powers that is long as they remain nonviolent. **–Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos**

"The Cotabatenos give their unconditional support for President Macapagal-Arroyo in declaring a state of emergency" **–Cotabato Gov. Datu Guimid Matalam**

The declaration "would certainly put our country many steps backward in the eyes of the world, leaving our economy more handicapped... Removing such action is justified under the Constitution to maintain civilized and a law-abiding society. As a Filipino, I am saddened that these things are happening. Where are we going to learn?" **–Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Michelle Tagarda**

"It is the prerogative of the President to exercise it. But if the country is on top of any situation," **–Bukidnon Regional Trial Court Judge Adolfo Absalon**

The President did the right thing. **–Hadrali Bantog**, speaker, ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly

I find no justification in the declaration as long as the President "[does] not harass the media and suppress press freedom. **–Atty. Jose Conde**, executive secretary of the Court of Appeals, Butuan

"It is a legitimate source of a legal government to protect itself from those who would like to grab power. If nothing is done by the government and a coup d'etat succeeds it [some], who will compose it? For how long will it stay? I will settle with the present one rather than have a coalition without assurance of success." **–Prof. Geoffrey Salgado**, historian and dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Mindanao State University, Iligan City

"We did the right thing. Those oppose it or have abused their rights." **–Teddie Lyn Bongabat**, Cotabato City

"The declaration has convinced me that there is indeed a serious threat to the democratic institutions." **–South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes**

"Our intent has been peaceful and the record is happening only in Manila. So based on our present situation here, PGMA has no basis in declaring a state of national emergency. Manila is not the Philippines." **General Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr.**

"It is nerve-wracking in the sense that little by little, the rights of individuals would be curtailed. It is totally baseless." **–Rolando Dedoles, Board member , Bukidnon**

"The declaration seems to respond to the outcry of growing dissent and restlessness of the people... This government can't sound like suppress democratic rights of the people when intentions are valid, healthy and sound. The declaration must be denounced." **–Bishop Solfrancis Cabang**, Iglesia Filipina Independiente

"My move is unnecessary for as long as there is no physical violence committed by the people, any move to curtail their freedom to celebrate and to announce their sentiment is tantamount to a repressive rule." **–Andrei Andersan**, Anakbayan, Zoning Antigua del Sur

"I don't think anyone has proved that the current government is in a state of peril." **–Pendatun Dalhura**, physician, Davao City

"With the state of emergency in, I'm afraid martial law is not far away from being declared. [The President] is bent on holding on to power at all costs. Priority for her newest statement before a group of journalists that she chose is [it is] that the country. Let's pray that there will be no bloodshed and chaos be unleashed." **–Atty. Philippine Commissioner Haj. Hakman Abdullah**, Cotabato City

"While it is part of her broad powers as the commander in chief, the crackdown on the ground do not measure such an exercise." **–Antonio Buzeta**, law professor, Ateneo College, Bukidnon City

"Pan lang yang ng drama sa nilayan ng bayan natin. Wala ang mangyari diyan." **–Richie Sobilar**, housewife, Butuan City

"I was shocked and hurt when relatives and friends reported that I was enflamed because of my involvement in the coup. That's not true. I still don't know why my name came out. They could have based it on my previous background... I remain committed to the chain of command. I am in Manila right now because I'm on vacation leave since Feb. 20. The report I went on hiding is not true." **–Col. Ariel Quesada**, Marine commander of Camp Aguinaldo

"Those standing to topple the government has not gained support from Mindanao yet. Even Magdalo soldiers who had been released from detention and now form part of the Southcom structure in camp and not all surrounded me. So he (how soldiers don't) throw or abandon my leadership of supporting their previous rising superiors, they are performing their job well here." **–Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon**, Southern Command chief, Zamboanga City

"We are ensuring all vital installations under our sector of responsibility." **–Lt. Col. Bernardo Banzuela**, deputy commander of the Air Force's 32nd Tactical Wing Command

"Parochial in the sense situation now, it is but natural for the government to react to measures that would protect the people and the state." **–Brig. Gen. Benjamin Mendiola**, Southern deputy chief

"My temperaments loyal to the Constitution and the duly constituted authority. We continue to follow the AFP chain of command and the incident in Manila was just an isolated one." **–Maj. Gen. Agustin Ormeta**, commander, Army 6th Infantry Division, Cotabato City

"I am confident that there is no officials military personnel involved in any destabilization plots against the President... Everybody is united." **–Col. Eduardo del Rosario**, 2nd Area Group chief

"We will continue to follow the chain of command so far as the police in the region are concerned. We have no movements. All police police officers are intact in support to President Arroyo." **–Senior Supt. Ahmad Mamalintas**, ARMM police director

Reports from Jaile C. Algeria, Agador Z. Jimeo, Joeffrey Mateo, Ryan Rosauro, Joselle Badillo, Iyad B. Mendoza, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Solaiz, Grace de Joseo, Franchie Calizjad, Christine Ortega, Jeffrey Tupas, Bernie Jay C. Santos, Judy Quiroz

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Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Engo Bonanza Philippine Open that was scheduled on March 1 to 5 at the Philsports Complex (ULTRA) will be postponed until later this year.

In view of the current situation, participating countries have been duly advised by their respective governments against traveling to the Philippines in the meantime. This is of course very understandable.

The organizers are working with the International Badminton Federation to find a suitable date within the international calendar. Nevertheless, all international participants are eager to come to the Philippines on this later date, when the situation has normalized.

To all who have purchased tickets to the event, please hold on to your tickets as these will still be honored on the new event dates. You may also call Ticketworld (09199999) for a refund, if necessary.

We look forward to seeing you at the event. With more time to prepare, we know that the Engo Bonanza Philippine Open staging will even be better!

See you all soon!

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SO THICK was the mud at the landslide site in Guinsaugon that a US Marine used a shovel to pull another Marine out of the muck. The US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was diverted from the Balikatan exercises in Jolo to help in the search and rescue operations. →

Rescuers give up on Leyte landslide survivors

To page A2

told the Inquirer.

The governor said there were not enough words to express her gratitude to the hundreds of local and international volunteers who had helped in the operations.

She said the flow over the site yesterday "and for the first time I was really overwhelmed by the magnitude of the landslide."

"It was a moving sight, and it made me [appreciate all the more] the bigness of the hearts of our countrymen and friends from the international community who came from all over the world to help the people of St. Bernard," she said.

Lerias said an Ombudsman team would stay on for one month as a measure to "minimize the [chances] of some anomalies occurring."

About 3,314 evacuees, including 644 from Guinsaugon, are housed in four evacuation centers in the town proper.

Dr. Puji Pujiono, regional head of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Undac), said the response of the volunteers demonstrated how anxious were prepared to work together to respond to a disaster.

He told Undac helped that at this point, attention should be paid more to the survivors and rescuers.

"Retrieval can go on later," he said.

'Sacred sanctuary'

Undac said the disaster area would eventually be turned into "a sacred mortuary, where we can remember those who died."

Fr. Bernard Mayor Marlo Lin said they were still looking for evacuation sites for the 400 survivors. She said one of the ideas floated was to [expand] Sitio Kanluran Uno, the village near to Guinsaugon.

"But the site is small...only about 1.5 hectares. We need at least two or three hectares to accommodate all of them in one area," Lim said.

Guinsaugon, the fourth largest village of St. Bernard, has a land area of above six hectares, most of which was planted to rice.

Before the landslide, its population stood at around 1,800.

The governor said the experts may have lost hope in finding survivors, but not Samuel Bacos, 34.

"They are my daughters," Bacos said of Ella Joy, 9, and Sheena Mae, 4. "I believe that they are still alive."

The body of his wife, Thelma, 33, has been found and buried.

Bacos, a mariner, was on board his ship based in Argentina when he learned of the Feb. 17 landslide. He returned to Guinsaugon on Feb. 24.

The distraught Bacos said he did not know what he would do now that he had lost his family and home.

Different

Benjamin Hong (not Hong as earlier reported), coordinator of the 33-member Taiwanese rescue team, said Guinsaugon was different from other disaster sites where survivors were still found even after 10 days.

"A landslide is different from an earthquake," Hong said the losses about an hour before he and his team left Guinsaugon at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

He added: "Under a structure [toppled] by an earthquake, there's an. There are chances of survival even after a six days later, in a landslide, the area is covered completely [and] the chances of survival are much, much more slim."

"We are very saddened. I'm sorry about the tragedy. Everybody tried very hard to complete the job."

Lerias said the remaining 58 Igorot volunteers and soldiers belonging to the 8th Infantry Division would no longer actively search for the Guinsaugon Elementary School, where over 200 pupils and teachers are believed buried.

On Friday evacuees using satellite phones thought they had found the school site when a photo showed a dented roof under several feet of mud.

It turned out to be a house, the governor said.

'Debris avalanche'

Mahar Lagmay, a geologist from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said their studies had shown that it would be difficult to find any more bodies and structures in Guinsaugon.

He said almost all the evacuees in the village had been moved by more than 500 meters from their original sites by the landslide.

"What hit Guinsaugon is what we call a 'debris avalanche.' Three million cubic meters of earth pushed the houses..." Lagmay said.

"With those findings and in consultation with other experts, we came up with the conclusion that it's time to end the rescue efforts," he said.

Johnny Ong, who is part of the combined team of geologists from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University, said they had pinpointed its sites where the search operations could still continue.

Many of the villagers were believed to have been dragged to their sites by the mudslide, he said.

Lerias said it was at the same time that they had hoped to find survivors. But she said they had to suspend search and rescue operations several times because of heavy rains.

11-day drive in Oman

"Rescue was working against us, and it has not been easy," she said.

The disaster in Guinsaugon has spurred Filipino workers in Oman to launch an 11-day humanitarian drive (from Feb. 20 to June 1) for the survivors and other victims.

The aid effort, called "Help Leyte Fund Drive for Landslide Victims," was launched by some 40 community leaders under the Filipino Social Club based in Muscat, the Omani capital.

The club, chaired by Melvin Villaflor, is the sole Filipino organization recognized by the Omani government. Villaflor-ex-port [From Arroyo: doing

1081 or 1017? AFP chief fumbles not once but twice

To page A2

know of her controversial emergency proclamation cannot quite get a handle on what national he is talking.

Armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday made a slip of the tongue not once but twice, citing "Proclamation 1081" when he meant "Proclamation 1017."

Proclamation 1081 was the infamous document with which the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in the country on Sept. 23, 1972, that would last for 14 years.

On Friday, just as the nation was celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution that ousted the Marcos dictatorship, Mr Arroyo declared a state of emergency under Proclamation 1017.

She said that because of a "national alliance" between the extreme right and left in a conspiracy to bring down the duly elected government, the war still on the Armed Forces to maintain law and order and prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence and rebellion throughout the country as well as enforce obedience to all her decrees and orders.

No difference

If some of Ms Arroyo's critics are to be believed, there is no difference between 1081 and 1017, as they warned of a regime of warrantless arrests and detention without charges.

The Free Legal Assistance Group, which defended victims of human rights abuses during martial law for free, did not seem to see any difference between Ms Arroyo's 1017 and Marcos's 1081.

Some legal experts have pointed out, however, that the President did not include in her term of emergency declaration the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus—the privilege which protects citizens from illegal detention and searches—or the placing of the country or any part of it under martial law.

But if military rhetoric could mistake 1017 for Marcos's martial law proclamation, it is not surprising as Senga himself appeared to be just as confused.

"This morning, I issued a guidance to all commanders down the line so they would know the guidance in the implementation of Proclamation 1081, in itself as general orders are received from our commander-in-chief," Senga declared in a dzBM radio interview anchored by Vice President Noli de Castro on his.

De Castro may not have noticed the slip as he did not correct Senga.

Getting it right

Eventually Senga did get the proclamation number right.

"The primary agency that will move is the Philippine National Police and we are ready to assist them if they ask for our assistance based on Proclamation 1017," he said.

In yet another radio interview later yesterday, Senga again slipped up.

Asked about the implementing guidelines he issued during a command conference earlier that day, Senga referred to "Proclamation 1081" as he enumerated the guidelines.

He did not notice the mistake, but the interviews were on, he easily made the shift to "Proclamation 1017."

Senga had just graduated from the Philippine Military Academy when Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

Batch of '72

Some of his batchmates in the Malaguyo Class of 1972 are in key positions in government, among them Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, retired Gen. Hiyas Bito, Senga's predecessor as AFP chief of staff, retired Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, the former Navy chief, and retired Lt. Gen. Gilberto Adan, former chief of the Southern Command.

TRIBUNE editor in chief Ninez Cacho-Olivarez a day after police raided the Tribune office on Friday night, and banned editorial notice ink and a bundle of the latter edition of the newspaper headlining President Arroyo's declaration of emergency rule.

PNP chief warns media

To page A2

the economy and sabotaging the people's confidence in government, and clearly fall in the ranks of the enemy," he said, reading from a portion of the order.

Takeover of Tribune

Lumibao said he would recommend that the PNP take over the operations of The Daily Tribune, a broadsheet critical of the Arroyo administration.

That means the government will review the reports to be published by the paper, but it will not be closed down, he said.

Lumibao said the paper had been engaged in "a concerted effort and systematic conspiracy with known elements out to bring down the duly constituted government since May 2004."

"[That] conduct is a clear and present danger to the country and its people," he said.

But Ninez Cacho-Olivarez, the paper's publisher and editor in chief, said she would continue to publish.

"We will publish as we wish. We are still going to write what we want. If they insist on police action, let them close it. But the chance of the Tribune must come from the government," Olivarez told the Inquirer. "We will continue as usual since that is our license."

Olivarez said it would be business as usual in the Tribune.

"I have been advised to make myself invisible, but what for? I am not doing anything wrong," she said.

Olivarez reported for work at around 2 p.m. yesterday despite rumors that she would be arrested.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, Tribune columnist, the Senators and other Tribune columnists could not be reached for comment.

At about 4 p.m., Olivarez learned that she would not be arrested.

Saguisag said he would go to the Supreme Court tomorrow "to question the constitutionality of the act emanating from the proclamation" of a national emergency, which was the basis for the order to raid the Tribune.

Midnight raid

Officers of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group raided the Tribune's editorial office past midnight yesterday.

Jacinto Ronald Ermillano said the policemen took page proofs of the paper's Feb. 25 issue and photographs and copies of the paper's layout and e-mailed by its reporters before leaving the office on the 9th Floor of the GUC Building on Tiñio Bakers Street in Manila.

"One or two of them had a video camera," said Ermillano who, along with a security guard, was the only one left in the newspaper office.

He said he had earlier learned that the policemen had gone to the paper's printing office in Pasay Area at around 12 p.m.

"They got nothing there because the newspapers were already out for distribution," he said.

Some cops remained inside the editorial office as well as outside the building.

Ermillano said the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame said they were given orders to secure the facility "which is considered a potential source of destabilization materials."

Freedom of the press

Separately challenged during the press conference, Lumibao was asked if the government's action did not constitute a curtailment of the freedom of the press and was, therefore, unconstitutional.

At one point, he said the 1987 one "final[ing] shelter in General Order No. 5."

He said other media organizations would face the same line as the Tribune if they did not bow to government standards.

"Until yesterday when a civilian-backed military uprising was crushed by authorities, the Daily Tribune was deeply engaged in a continuing propagation of disinformation and publication of seditious and scurrilous remarks or articles," Lumibao said, adding:

"We will recommend that the government direct the operations of the Daily Tribune, to ensure that the newspaper will not be used in propagate disinformation, antigovernment messages and information that incite to sedition."

Lumibao also said the PNP would move against persons, groups or business establishments that, according to its evaluation, would "contribute to the exacerbation of the national emergency."

"With this clear mandate from General Order No. 5, we will carry out appropriate actions and accordingly measures to prevent its re-

currence of the situation," he said.

The move on the Tribune was meant to show a "strong presence, to call media outlets not to emulate or do anything that would help the rebels in bringing down this government," said Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff.

"This is an abnormal situation. This is not a joke or an invention. There is a possibility of an armed takeover of the government. A government has the right to govern itself," Defensor said in person.

Asked if the government believed that the Tribune could be part of the alleged conspiracy, he said: "Could be, could be. We can't say because they might do something."

But Defensor refused to call the Tribune case a government takeover.

"We did not meddle with their headlines and content, so it's clearly not a takeover. They're continuing to print," he said. "I hope we'll never reach that point [of the government declaring the editorial content of a newspaper]."

He said the only media outlet that had been closely monitored by the authorities was the Tribune, and denied reports that certain tabloids and broadsheet stations had also been put under surveillance.

Defensor said policemen were at the Tribune to check and not interfere with its operations.

He said the Tribune was targeted because its pro-headlines showed that it had a tendency to wage leftist and rightist propaganda in being down the government.

"It's OK if they are pro-[Joseph] Estrada, but they cannot be antigovernment or projected as that paper," he said.

Back-channeling

Defensor said the government had conducted "back-channeling efforts with owners and managers of different media outlets to explain the situation."

He dismissed criticism that the Tribune case involved censorship or media harassment.

"We should understand terms in its historical situation. We are not referring to public press freedom, and we will not do that. But in this situation we have to help our countries," he said.

On the other hand, Eduardo Ermita, the President's chief legal counsel, said he did not anticipate the government takeover of Tribune when he helped draft Proclamation 1017.

But Ermita said he did not believe that it was "really in defiance of any Manila action to be taken against all media outlets."

Asked if Ms Arroyo should speak out to clear the matter, Ermita said: "I suppose she should."

Basilio Aguilos, convenor of the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties and a former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, said the raid on the Tribune was "unconstitutional."

"It can't be justified under a state of emergency. Even martial law does not suspend the bill of Rights. Freedom of expression can't be curtailed unless there's a clear and present danger of rebellion or invasion. So far, there's none," Aguilos said in an interview.

Aguilos, the former legal counsel in a case questioning the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464, pointed out that newspaper companies were not public utilities that the government could take over in a national emergency.

"You can't equate newspapers with public utilities. Newspapers enjoy freedom of the press. Public utilities and other industries are operating under a license that can be revoked by the government. Newspapers don't need a license," he said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio*

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Edsa Shrine remains a symbol hope

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR 30-YEAR-OLD MARIANO Sitio, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Shrine on Edsa is not only a proud symbol of the 1986 People Power Revolution, or a perfect site for anti-government protests, it is also a home where he and other ordinary people have found hope.

Sitio is one of the caretakers of the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City, built in honor of the massive uprising that ousted the Marcos dictatorship 20 years ago, on a tract of land donated by the Ortigas and Gokongwei families to the church.

Sitio used to be a street kid, wandering about in Manila City. Just wearing his trademark grayish, being a native of Balingasag, Sipaway.

Rude awakening

He was just nine years old when, one day, he woke inside their house and found that his mother had left him and his elder sister, bringing only their youngest sibling with her.

His father already dead by then, Sitio and his sister were clueless why their mother suddenly left them. "Maybe she could no longer afford to raise us," he told the Inquirer. But Sitio did not give up easily.

The nine-year-old boy worked in the rice fields and with the money he earned, he got on a bus headed for Baguio City, determined to find his mother, even if he did not know exactly where.

Sitio said he was shocked when the bus driver told him he was already in Cubao, Quezon City.

He walked aimlessly, still wearing his grayish, until he reached what he now knows as the Luneta Park in Manila City.

For six months he wandered about the city, eating only food banknotes using the meager amount he had saved, sorting other street children because of the way he was dressed and the way he spoke.

But one day, while he was sitting a bank in a public fountain, a security guard accosted him.

The guard brought him to the social welfare and development office in Manila City, which later reunited him once to my nephews, age, where he learned how to speak Filipino and started to wear "normal clothes."

He was 10, when he decided to leave the orphanage. He secretly joined a boy who had befriended him and who had offered to adopt him. But he planned to learn that the good samaritan had also children, Sitio decided to go this own way.

"I would not be another mouth to feed. I did not want to be an additional burden on his family," he recalled.

He went back to the streets. One morning, Bishop Teo Villegas, then the rector of the Ellis Shrine, found him inside. Sitio.

Just like what he had done to countless street children, Villegas brought Sitio to the shrine, gave him food and taught him catechism.

Sitio said he tried searching for his mother and siblings again but failed.

"I have learned to live alone. The shrine became my home. It was up to [Bishop Villegas] adopted me," he said.

Sitio became one of the beneficiaries when Villegas provided free houses three years ago for at least 42 families, many of whom were former street children who wandered around the shrine.

When Villegas left the parish to become the Bishop of the Diocese of Butuan in 2004, he left behind him, who later became a regular employee of the shrine.

Paying it forward

He may have forgotten how his siblings looked like, but Sitio still remembers everyone who has helped him. If he has some money, he buys viramins for the street children still in the orphanage where he came from, he buys groceries and tanks of rice for the family of the security guard who rescued him, and he visits Villegas in Butuan almost every week.

"I am happy with my life now. I would work for the shrine as long as I can," Sitio said.

His happiness is shared by 23-year-old Cresanto Cordaida, one of the three sacristans at the shrine. He reports to earn his college degree next year—thanks to a former classmate who brought him to the shrine in 2000.

Cordaida said his eyes grew wide the first time he entered the shrine.

"The people here aren't all very devotees—the way they talked, the way they dressed. I told myself I wanted to be like them," Cordaida said.

But coming from a poor family, he only managed to finish high school. His parents sent him to the La Salle Greenhills in Mandaluyong City to take up a four-vocational course, although he really wanted to take a degree.

Andy a classmate, encouraged him to also work at the shrine. Cordaida agreed, wanting a stable job. He knowing that his work would bring him closer to his dream of going to college.

"I thought [Bishop Villegas] would just give me free time to attend classes. I was surprised when he allowed to shoulder my schooling," Cordaida said.

He enrolled in Business Management at the Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City in 2001. He expects to graduate next year.

He said his work as a sacristan has also strengthened his faith. "I became closer to God. I learned to love my family more as well as to value my job," Cordaida said.

He said that most of the employees at the shrine were from poor families. Many of them, like him, were former street children who used to roam around the shrine.

Away from politics

In celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution, the shrine apparently tried to steer away from politics and instead organized activities that sought to redefine "people power."

A week was devoted to five seminars on possible livelihood opportunities like soap making and candle making. Parishioners are also given the power to help, even in simple ways, old and weakened persons.

In front of the entrance is a grotto called "Sibulanyan ni," where parishioners can pick a life made of paper, written on each are ways to help the poorer, like bringing aunt or uncle. Many people are responding to, symbolic shrine complainers said.

For Sitio, Cordaida (both declined to be photographed for this story) and the countless people whom the shrine has given hopes and hope, and people power is not about some but rather real political changes.

It is about people quietly bringing extraordinary changes in the lives of ordinary people.

THE EDSA Shrine has transformed not only the lives of millions of Filipinos, but the past and mostly who wander about its premises.

Parañaque school still closed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL in Don Bosco City will remain closed until further notice, health officials announced yesterday.

School officials earlier declared a week-long holiday when 11 students were hospitalized for symptoms of mercury exposure following a class experiment on Feb. 16.

Although only one of the 11 students is still confined at the Philippine General Hospital for further observation, two more students were also reported on Friday to be suffering from the same symptoms.

Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, however, said the two students are "not seriously ill."

Officials of the Department of Health and City Health Office (CHO), meanwhile, asked school administrators, in a meeting on Friday night, to map out a contingency plan should efforts to decontaminate the school drag on.

The school is negotiating with Metrowide Environment Consulting Inc., a private company, to conduct the mercury spillage cleanup, which would cost about P1 million, he said.

The cleanup is set to start on Tuesday and, hopefully, would be completed by Friday.

The DOH and CHO are keeping watch over 300 people from St. Andrew's—89 students and 17 teachers and staffers—who are suspected to have been exposed to the chemical.

Initial reports said a student was donating mercury with 30 students in a science class when some of the chemical, which was in an open bottle, was spilled.

The contamination, however, further spread when one of the staff cleaned the two classrooms, where the chemical was spilled, using a floor polisher.

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EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

Insurance firm employees lead Makati march to see Cory

By Edgar B. Villaseñor

IN THE MORNING OF FEB. 26, 1986, A GROUP OF Universal Reinsurance Corp. employees who had come to work early huddled around a newspaper with the headline "Marcos Flees" and relished the moment.

For in the days prior to that, we had kept vigil and stayed with the rest of humanity that had converged on Edsa and in the vicinity of Channel 4, for it during office hours or after office hours through the early mornings. We also engaged companies owned by Dambog Gonzalez with offices in the same building as a peaceful, nonviolent show of our opposing political persuasions. As a result, anti- and pro-Marcos slogans were displayed on our respective windows and updated daily to the delight of passers-by. Photos of the displays were published in Mr. & Ms. Magazine.

During our seemingly endless banter that glorious morning, we got hold of a yellow-colored plastic material and cut out big bold letters spelling the words FREE AGAIN.

Then, about 50 or so of us gathered at the bank lobby of the Universalife building and waited for more employees to arrive. In no time, we found ourselves marching on Ilaya de Bacao toward Pasay Road. We were in the mood to celebrate and invited employees of other companies and simple pedestrians to come along.

By the time the lead group holding up the Free Again banner reached the corner of Makati and Ayala avenues, more than a billion-strong column of people was marching behind it. Some Universalife employees were eventually tossed out of the front line and were replaced as banner holders.

DAY AFTER The glory day on Edsa, a group of Edsa veterans working for the Universal Reinsurance Corp. made this giant banner, and marching around Makati like the Pied Piper, a late-long column of people followed them as everyone was still high on Edsa I. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At this point, crowds from various pedestrian groups like Army, Navy, etc. joined the march, waving their own flags and posters and unduly eclipsing the Free Again banner. With cars and diplomatic, Universalife zip homebus asked these groups' flag bearers to move back.

On Ayala Avenue, those of us in front could no longer see where the subhead of the preceding one; we knew only that there were a lot of people. There were also lots of media people taking pictures and we had no trouble from that photos of our banner would land prominently in newspapers and foreign magazines.

By this time, the Universalife employees who initiated this Free Again march were faced with a problem. How do we end this? The marchers had just made a U-turn on Ayala and were moving toward Edsa.

Suddenly, one of us came up with a brilliant idea. Why don't we lead those people to the campaign headquarters of Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel on Edsa-Roxas avenue, also in Makati, and hope for the best? We stopped in front of the Cojuangco building and started chanting, "Cory, Cory, Cory."

Then a window on one of the floors of the building opened. A widely smiling and beaming Cory appeared and waved in appreciation at the marchers briefly. As the window closed, the crowd broke up and the Universalife employees all went back to the office, unmindful of the fact that in the excitement and frenzy of the celebration, not one of us had taken breakfast and lunch.

Up to this time, we never seem to tire of recounting this unique experience to company reunions or family gatherings, each one of us telling whoever cares to listen that we were there when it all happened, and that we were then truly Free Again.

Sleepless in Jaro

By Ruby A. Durnalang

I THOUGHT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT BARANGAY Libertad in Jaro, Iloilo, was fast asleep when news broke out on Ilombo Radio announcing that President Ferdinand Marcos had left the Palace.

Deafening screams, clapping and yelling erupted all around, not only in our house but in the entire neighborhood. Lights were turned on.

The Cathedral of Jaro was suddenly illuminated and the bells rang. Soon thousands of people thronged the streets, all heading toward the Cathedral, cheering and clapping. It seemed like one big fiesta.

I ran toward the Cathedral. I realized that what was happening in Edsa was also happening in Jaro.

Soldiers patrolling the city shook hands with people on the streets. People who didn't know each other were embracing each other and crying.

That night, I realized that although the islands in the Philippines are far apart, although we are far away from Edsa, although we were not there to face the tanks, in our hearts we are one, we have one dream and we can be together.

(The writer was then a 16-year-old high school student. She's a teacher now)

My dad, a hero

By Butch Garcia

IN HIS 40S THEN, HE WAS NOT THE IDEAL FAther. So in the evening of Feb. 25, when he asked me and my brother Perry to go to Mendiola, it came as a pleasant surprise to my mom.

"Wala na si Marcos! Umalis na si Marcos! Malaya na tayo!" people shouted along the route from San Juan to Mendiola.

We encountered very heavy traffic and had heads as a source ccess on Kamias-Magsaysay Avenue. We were stuck there for some 15 minutes.

My father, seven (the one to ed, minor his services much less appeals a rowdy crowd, went out of our vehicle.

There, amid the chants of all the people rushing to Mendiola, he took control of the traffic mess until the corner was cleared. I could still see him there, his frail frame in sando under a gray wool jacket, tipped half way up.

Then he bundled us Perry and me proceeded.

We were supposed to roam Malacañang. Because of the traffic delay we reached only the gate near Nagtahan Bridge. There, we joined the crowd in singing "Bayan Ko."

At a fleeting moment, I saw my father transformed into a selfless Edsa hero, a man I never thought he could be.

My father died in 1992.

Martial law baby comes of age

Never too young to start to learn about simple courage. It's Mawanga Ellore's right there for the protest rally.

THE PEOPLE

Magical moment

By Jessy Millan

I'M MARRIED WITH THREE LOVELY DAUGHTERS. I'M an architect. I passed the board exams four years after People Power. I migrated and worked in the US for a while but came back. I feel this is really my home.

As a student, I had marched in many protests but on that afternoon on Feb. 25, 1986, I thought the atmosphere was very surreal.

Police manning the barbed wire barricades on Mendiola bridge were stunned to the teeth and were suspiciously flying pins for the ride. I thought they were really very determined to stop us cold.

I cannot help but think that it only needs just one of these diehards in favor of his machinegun and fire and we were gone.

I belonged to the "definitive unit," or DU, that was one front line "di mo sya tatawag from the phalanx of police.

The crowd marshaled all the way down to Mendiola. News was being passed on like the front line that the situation at the Palace was changing rapidly.

Just before midnight, there was the sudden eruption of intense gunfire, shouting and people running away from the shooting.

I was thinking this was it, the last ditch effort of the dictatorship to hold on to his position. I would have one last stone we were in a Ambil Big Foundation. I could not do this without dragging the rest of the DU with me.

But I recovered and realized that the police were still firing upwards. It was just that many people are so valored with the rallies...the cameras, or filmmakers—were congregating on the sidewalk. They were the ones who screamed and ran when the gunfire resumed.

It dawned on me a distance night for the first time in the history of the world he presented to stop down without bloodshed.

Finally, it happened.

It was one of the most magical things that has happened to me and I cried exactly.

THIS IS WHERE Cardinal Sin once told Cory Aquino, even before Edsa I broke that she would become president. This is also a table for unwinding, for counseling estranged couples, etc.

THE CHURCH

Reflections on Sin

From page A1

Villa Isa Miguel is a house with many rooms. It has ready rooms for priests who need a place to rest. It has big rooms for big meetings as big as all the bishops of Asia and small rooms for small meetings like groundbreaking interviews. That Villa Isa Miguel has many rooms to be expected. It is not a villa for nothing.

What makes Villa Isa Miguel most memorable to me are the many tables in the house. Villa Isa Miguel is a house of many tables! The tables give character and identity to the rooms.

THE SAINTLY Mother Teresa also supported the cause of Sin.

The office desk

From this table, he took the telephone, called Radio Veritas and announced the people to go to Edsa.

Cardinal Sin's office desk is an old style mess table with carvings on the corners. It has the usual drawers on the side of the person working on the table. The only drawer Cardinal Sin really used was the long drawer on the level of the stomach. Here he kept rosaries, stamps, medicine and little religious articles. These were given away generously to the guests and visitors. There is no piece without prayer. From that small drawer, the prayer tokens of his guests and reminded them to pray. A nation in prayer is a nation at peace.

There is something peculiar about his office desk. It has a movable table extension in front so that his guests can have a place to lay their cups of coffee or take pieces while they talk to the Cardinal. Over a cup of coffee or a piece of pizza with a slice of cake or a simple sandwich, Cardinal Sin entertained hispanic, counseled estranged couples or mediated between political rivals. That little table extension has served many purposes. It is perhaps its unique design ever become a conversation piece. How can you fight against someone who eats from the same cake? The esteem way to end has breads is through the stomach. This is a table extension for peace.

This was the table on which he read letters from popes and cardinals, from Kings and Presidents. Here on this table, he read countless manifestos of the archdiocese and political prisoners. Here on this table, he wrote his pastoral letters, signed them and issued them. Here on this table, he read "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis, his favorite spiritual reading book. Here on this table, he read the newspapers and magazines and scribbled his Spanish poems.

In the morning of Jan. 20, 2001, the former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called me Cardinal Sin at Villa Isa Miguel and told him that she was seriously considering the request of the generals to give former President Estrada an honorable exit from office. The Cardinal's face grew red. He pounded his hand on his table and said, "Gloria, you are now the President! You are now the Commander-in-Chief. If you begin your presidency by dying what the generals want, you will have to do that for the rest of your term. Let the generals obey you and take order from you. Please take your oath. The people are waiting for you."

GMA: Will of God

At this moment, the cell phone rang and the aides informed her that the negotiations with Estrada had reached an impasse. Putting down the phone, she said: "Your Eminence, this is the will of God for me. I will take my oath at the Edsa shrine by noon." The Cardinal bowed his head and his tears filled on his desk.

What a historic table this is! If tables can speak, I am sure every floor and splinter of this table will proudly retell ancient Philippine Church history.

The most cherished piece of a kind in the whole house. It is the only round table in the house that dates 16 persons. To bring the table into the room where it is now, we had to dismantle a part of the wood en wall to bring it through.

What table is to the bar room. It used to have a rainy bar dining the time of Cardinal Ruffino Santos. It was originally a recreation room for a leisurely drink or just to have around and watch the television. It has evolved through the years. The television is not there anymore. The bars were not there anymore. The only thing that remains is the table called Isa Room in spite of the changes.

But the room has become a room for confidential meetings. The 16-seater round table is symbolic of the value that operate in those meetings. There is no special place for the head. All are equal in the meetings. The discussions look at one another. Listen to another and decide together. This round table is symbolic of the Church as a community of disciples called by the Lord personally and yet answering the call of the Lord together. This table is symbolic of the Church in people of God.

Cory, you'll be president

On this table, Cardinal Sin met his Board of Consultors once a month in order to decide on matters affecting the Church. On this table, he met Gen. Fidel Ramos and allowed the issue governance to lay before him all the evidences against the incumbent President Estrada. On this table, in the presence of the Board of Consultors, he told Cory Aquino that she will be President of the Philippines long before Edsa Dos broke out. On this table, Cardinal Sin prophetically told Cory Aquino to prepare her gown for her oath taking as President of the Philippines. On this table, he met then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Erap Impeach Campaign and advised her on moral principles for moral governance. On this round table, he made decisions that changed the course of our history.

Table of peace

The true table of peace is Jesus Himself. This is symbolized liturgically by the altar for the Eucharist. From the table of the Eucharist, we are fed and nourished. On the table of the Eucharist, we lay our gifts for the Lord. There it a second table for the spiritual nourishment of the people of God. It is called the table of Word. The Word of God refreshes us and gives us strength.

This desk table in the archbishops office is a veritable table of peace. Do it, healing, reconciliation and peace. Differences were resolved and commitments to peace, no matter what the cost, were vowed.

The large round table speaks to eloquently of equality and justice, one of the many pillars of peace. It speaks of a Church less concerned with dignity and honor garnished with humility and service. From the table of "communion," we find the bread of peace. In the Chalice of life, the house of many tables, there is peace.

Nora Aunor booed

By Francisco Xavier del Rosario Jr.

ON THE 23RD, RADIO VERITAS CALLED ON THE CITizens to protest the station after it received reports that the military would close it down.

Since the station was on the same street where my aunt lived, we decided to proceed there. Not many people had gathered there, mostly nearby residents.

There was a stage built on the street to accommodate people and to update them of the developments at Edsa. Jim Paredes and Lino Brocka, alternately, hosted the impromptu program.

That night, an artist came to join the gathering much to the dismay of some of the people. Boos and whistles welcomed her. It was Nora Aunor, a known supporter of the Marcoses. She explained that she had realized that it was time for a change. Some applauded her. Afterwards, we heard she was

From the shooting

during the program. Lino announced that a group of libations was on its way to the Station. He asked men to form a barricade fronting the stage. While we were standing, artist looked together, a loud explosion was heard. There was screaming and crying.

Unnerved to calm the crowd explaining that it was just a drill conducted by some military personnel who were already supporting the rebellion. Sorry, namely, no guns intent to stop arrived.

Later it was announced that the government had disabled the station's transmitter in Bulacan and that any time now, its broadcast would be restrained. It actually never stopped.

Tear-gassed at Libis

By Fe Pulles Que

THERE IS SO MUCH JUBILATION. JUNE KEITHLEY'S voice cracks as she announces early in the morning that we have won. Brenda and I quicken our pace from Guadalupe bridge towards Camp Aguinaldo. You have to walk a long way. I think this is our third day at Edsa. Yet you do not feel tired. There is energy in the air.

The streets are flooded with cars and groups of people—families and friends who have set up camp everywhere. You feel a strong bond with the festive crowd now dancing, shouting, smiling and even offering breakfast to just about everybody. There is a certain force, a renewed pride that binds us together.

But something is missing. We see bold captors hovering over Ortigas. Some helpless retracts it's a video shows. Marcos troops are massing by the truckloads. Some trucks are now in Libis.

Brenda and I move quickly to get there. Near enough, maybe the troops before dark. Libis is still an open field. Trees are shedding yellow colored leaves. I see many international and local correspondents on their way for any major development.

Suddenly, a commotion. I hear guns cracked. By instinct, we turn back and run. I was just waiting for a bullet to pierce my back. Somebody headed a tear gas. My eyes were on fire. I can not see. I am crying now.

Somebody says, my future passes through me. How can I be an activist if I go blind? A nameless lady grabs me. I ask for water. People are helping each other and offering water. I wash my face. I feel better although my eyes and face are stinging still.

I see my friends. But I know for others to find her. Funny, terrible phones for the ordinary man is subdued of us. But we keep track of each other, of rumors to ensure development by radio, by word of mouth and because our minds were focused on the same things. Mobile phones are soon collectively "useless."

So we walk back to Edsa, a silver train saying that is where we should go. There, a new wave of multitude from all walks gather, block the Marcos forces and ask the troops to "back off and join us." Nobody is giving instructions or asking us what to do.

We just know.

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THE MEDIA

For a shining moment . . .

From page A1

Time was a long time ago—Andre Malraux seeking of the triumph of Joan of Arc in his "History of France."

There are the souls of human greatness in the stories of the two immortal women who, five centuries apart, rallied people through their own faith to rise against tyranny. It is story that can never be told too often and, in a country where it took this time, it is lessons in the dynamics and wonder of democratic political leadership.

The miracles of Cory Aquino were made not by God but by millions of ordinary women who invested themselves in her. They made her value they hoped to be, and she made them for a shining moment irresistible.

I wasn't there when an agonized cardinal chose road as a convoy of tanks have him view and this was met by what is now called the first line of defense—a group of nuns audibly holding a golden rosary, armed with nothing more menacing than their respective rosaries in hand.

I wasn't there when a great nun clip piled through the crowd gathered in Gomez's exit grounds as one helicopter at first circled consistently then touched down to disgorge its pilot, Col. Honasan Sandy, to signal what was to become the uprising under the supreme military authority—the equivalent of the government forces to the rebel group.

Subsequently, the tanks, the heavily armed "enemy" battalions remained turned around amidst wild cheering and clapping from the smiling, teary-eyed multitude.

Gee, I missed that most dramatic point of the Edsa history-in-the-making.

But I was home, standing in 1750/90 by-permeative dimensions, having dressed up all night and only assuming listening to the radio blow-by-blow account by Jane Kirkbey of the dramatic turn of events.

This was how I was able to keep track of what was happening, when it was happening, hourly events that something had to be done and doing.

Looking back afterwards, I realized that the moment was for me no forever. Because I wasn't there.

GLORIA GARCIA TORENA-GOLOY

Been there in '72 and '78, seen it in '83, but missed '86

WRITER GLORIA GARCIA TORENA-GOLOY HAD BEEN in the midst of all those dramatic moments in the nation's history since her voice renowned Manila Times newspaper was unceremoniously shut down upon the declaration of martial law in 1972.

The war in the rallies in 1978 when a crowd scatter closely forced by voice and began to speak out.

She was at Luneta in 1980 at the festival of data opposition. Under Benigno Aquino whose murder galvanized the democratic roots action.

But she must she missed out on the one defining moment in the life of the country—Edsa.

This is her memoir.

It is a natural opportunity I have experienced, year after year, each time the historic event is recalled in celebratory media presentations. I can never hope to be limited to the Edsa Shrine in Quezon still because I have made it to the privileged gathering that enabled in such spectacular manifesto, the whole world sat up and took notice.

I wasn't there when the stretch of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (then's Edsa, of course) began to fill up with a rapidly growing multitude in the area between Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo and, as the numbers accumulated, had to spill out in the side streets, leaving people who had come out to join the mammoth gathering, to abandon their vehicles and scramble the rest of the way on foot.

Later, when aerial photographs were shown of the four-way spill-out, the recorded visuals reminded that of a huge crown of humanity dispersed in this roundtable display by an Erasmus Rose pulling off a superlative stroke of art.

I wasn't there to join the people acoustic singing jaco with the solemn blare made performed by priests in the makeshift altar, set up wherever space was made available.

I wasn't there when an agonized cardinal chose road as a convoy of tanks have him view and this was met by what is now called the first line of defense—a group of nuns audibly holding a golden rosary, armed with nothing more menacing than their respective rosaries in hand.

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THE MEDIA

Where were you when it happened? Memories of an AP man

By Ruben G. Alabastro
PDI Day Desk Editor

WHEN DISASTER strikes, people would ask: Where were you when it happened?

On that Saturday afternoon in 1980 when Juan Ponce Enrile fled to Camp Aguinaldo, my friend Jerry Isom at The Associated Press was watching a movie somewhere in Manila.

The day had been swept with tension. I was alone in the office when the phone rang. It was Iggy Apostol, the Inquirer founding publisher. She wanted to talk to David Balsamo, the AP bureau chief, and she sounded breathless.

"Enrile is about to be arrested by Marcos. He has gone to Aguinaldo. Go there. He needs all of you to be there," she said.

I called David but he said said he had gone out to see a movie. It was a world still without cell phones and I called upstairs and again. A political upheaval was in the wind and the chief AP correspondent in the Philippines was enjoying a movie. I grilled my teeth.

Just then, our news editor, Mike Bunoan, Jerry and this page 2 editor Orly Cobo where he was covering Cory Aquino's civil disobedience campaign. He told me to drop everything and go to Aguinaldo.

I flew.

Other reporters had arrived at the Defense Department but no one seemed to know what was going on.

Chopper brings Swarens

The roar of a helicopter sent us running to the windows. Soldiers were jumping out of the chopper, struggling with bulky camera cases.

"Hijo sa mus!" someone said.

In my whole years I had known no president except Ferdinand Marcos. Here he declared martial law his word was law. The toughest generals quaked in his presence.

Now, his own soldiers were preparing to fight him.

The day had changed for us all.

I called my wife. She was working in a security at the media-filled press office. I told her about Enrile, the tanks of guns. "Go home," I told her.

She said she still had work to do.

Please, Emily, I said, go home now. I'll see you there. I'm going to relay my Marcos, di ba? Hindi na legal ang pagsuway na," I pleaded.

She would not listen. She had been working at Malacañang for 15 years but her heart had been captured by Cory.

She said she was staying on.

I called again, begging. She insisted she could not leave her officemates behind. "How can we run, di? — Hiwag mo akong alalahanin," she said.

Her voice was breaking. She was almost crying. She hung up again.

Once more I called, but she would no longer lift the phone. I knew she had made up her mind.

No Yes man

I called the news desk. David, already in, was filing stories. In the next several hours, I phoned in whatever scrap of information I could get.

Correspondents from the world's major newspapers trickled in. We were told to go to the social hall. Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos were seated at a long table surrounded by bodyguards. Enrile announced he was breaking with Marcos.

"He stressed me. He thought I'd be like the men who say yes to him," Enrile said. "I am a peasant, not like him who was born a rich man. I've seen danger more than he has seen in his life . . . I have lying awake to break off, but I just couldn't do it."

The room was astounded. The man who for years had looked on obedience to Marcos was full of defiance.

"Any few minutes on us, I would run to a phone and tell David what Enrile and Ramos were saying.

"Wow ... Wow," David kept muttering on the other end.

In Manila's news latter, the phones kept ringing. Taking one call, the rebel minister spoke softly into the phone, his face drawn. I talked in short detail, too.

Ramos smiled. "Assalamu alaikum says sajawang pala."

Enrile received deeply worried for me. He said: "If you want to leave, please go."

I have never been a brave man. That night I realized that perhaps, in some circumstances, it is not the individual who makes the decisions for himself but the circumstances decides for him. I stayed on.

Unforgettable dawn

Roaring people had begun to gather on Edsa. I went around the compound. It was past midnight. Soldiers were hunkering over the walls and dropping food packs. They were not more than a few dozens.

The massive tide of people support for the rebels had begun as a small movie before dawn.

Fear was everywhere but not the memory of that Sunday when Enrile, a rifle slung over his shoulder, crossed Edsa to link up with Ramos at Crame.

Loudly cursing the flowery, dark-lands street, and staying in the hotel lobby, many marveled like soldiers behind the man who had once been the face of a repressive regime.

Enrile was finally out to the open, and I kept looking around for possible ambushes. My head bowed in deep thought, Enrile marched on.

Then the cheering crowds swallowed him. I called David and said I had never seen anything like it.

I break a leg

On the third day the rebels knocked out Channel 9.

I pleaded with an old man to do the pair of his house near the TV station to let me use his phone. Friends of pair live without amount us.

In the cab, a scared woman crouched against a wall. I told the News Desk that loyalist troops were pouring up reinforcements.

The fighting subsided. I walked into Channel 4 and saw rebels enjoying off Marcos' wall pictures with the rods of their rifles.

Time blurred again. A soldier shouted: "Dumarine sila!" I told the office that Marine troops were on their way to Aguinaldo. Then I ran out to the lobby, looking for an exit. I hadn't noticed a few moments, left me a used bombe my leg. I didn't know the bomb-ma had been emptied of its ammo.

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Marcos on his knees

"In this being broadcast on TV and radio?" Marcos asked, not aware he was on. "Mr. President, you are on TV and radio," someone reminded.

"But I can't hear myself anymore," Marcos said.

Facing the camera, he began issuing orders, calling on supporters to come to the Palace.

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David asked me to do a night beat. The story I wrote was of a man talking to a useless deaf was no longer listening.

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The man who had ruled my life for 20 years, made me talk to whisper to me for the last time. I'm sure he knew I said anything about him or his wife during the harsh years of his regime, whose decrees caused me to be detained under by police hooligans because of my anti-dictatorship. I'm sure many psychopaths, was gone.

Somehow I felt an emptiness in my life.

4 sleepless days, 80 stories on the A Wire

By Miguel Syjuco
PDI News Feed Editor

AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE MASSED ON EDSA HOURS after Enrile and Ramos announced they had broken with Marcos, my mind raced three years back in time to a smoke-filled bar in Ermita. Over beer and cigarettes, a small group of foreign correspondents were discussing the day's events when two of them got into an argument.

"They've lost it!" exclaimed one of the newsmen, an Australian, with a tinge of arrogance at how the first massive anti-Marcos demonstrations in the wake of Ninoy Aquino's funeral had ended peacefully. "They'll never get rid of Marcos now!"

How wrong he was!

Two years following Cory Aquino, then in Cebu at the end of the opposition leaders tried to drum up support for a civil disobedience campaign and a boycott of companies owned by Marcos cronies. The crowds that lined the route of her motorcade and later attended a rally at Fuente Osmeña were reminiscent of the throngs that greeted her and running mate Doy Laurel a month earlier as they campaigned for the Feb. 7 snap presidential election. It seemed as though the entire province of Cebu was out that day in January, lined up on both sides of a coastal highway around the entire island.

It was past noon on Feb. 25 when I returned to my hotel room to phone in a story that Cory had already picked me members of her future cabinet.

Ben Medyaroy, who would normally be off on Saturdays but had taken over my shift at the news desk in Manila, was agitated. Ye Juan! Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos were seated at a long table surrounded by bodyguards. Enrile announced he was breaking with Marcos.

"He stressed me. He thought I'd be like the men who say yes to him," Enrile said. "I am a peasant, not like him who was born a rich man. I've seen danger more than he has seen in his life . . . I have lying awake to break off, but I just couldn't do it."

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THE PALACE

Bloodied 'barong Tagalog' and whiff of expensive perfume

By Mel Lopez

(The author, a former major liberals and part of the opposition struggle against ferdinand Marcos. He was at Edsa during the 1986 uprising and was among those who first entered Malacañang after Marcos fled. Here are some of his recollections)

ON THE SECOND DAY of the uprising, government forces began moving towards Aguinaldo and Crame. I remember vividly the anxious selves, amidst cheers from the crowd, I hung a rosary on the main gate of Aguinaldo, symbolically locking it.

The rosary was one of the emblems of the peaceful revolution.

Mission: Protect Palace

Two days later, when word came out that the Marcoses had left the country, I was told by opposition leaders Salvador Laurel and Lorenzo Tañadora to proceed to Malacañang to protect its historical and cultural riches from the mobs.

I joined the first group of "freedom fighters" to enter Malacañang. Our group included Tarlac Gov. Jose "Speng" Yap and actors Johnny Lopez, Francis Gatchalian and Orlando Rivas.

Inside, we met Col. Carlos R. Rimuldo of the Philippine Constabulary, whom Sen. Fidel Ramos had sent to search the area for booby traps.

DEFINING MOMENT: The author Mel Lopez (second left), who was to become post-EDSA I mayor of Manila, stand tall with hockey players of Edsa, Bonie and Ramos, Bobcats Bringa Hamanan.

I recall feeling a deep compassion for Marcos when I saw his empty bed. Beside it stood a small sterilizer. A toilet was nearby.

The 7 x 15-meter room looked and smelled like a hospital.

A stench of blood and urine, probably from Senator Ichtiyo treatments. Two elderly nurses knew each other and were very good against the walls. Sprawled on the floor, on either side of the bed, were two Marcos maid servers, presumably used by doctors in medical aides at night.

Barong for each taking

Yap went through the Marcos fridge. He touched a tidawillard barong tagalog—the favorite President had worn earlier in the day during his each taking on the balcony.

Although ill, Marcos loved to work, I realized. He had small working tables next to his bed, several mat drawers in each room.

I supposed he continued to pore over and sign documents while he was undergoing treatment...or even while he was in the bathroom.

Large footprints

But what struck me most were the signs that the Marcoses had left in a hurry: suitcases and boxes of medicines lined the walls leading to a small, inner room.

The door opened to a grand hall flanking the Pasig. Anyone can come, I thought.

Large and muddy footprints marked the path leading to the bedroom. They were probably the footprints of Imee's one and many personnel or Ivy Pilipino soldiers who had access to each area.

Last prayer

Candles still glowed in the bedroom altar. The family must have prayed before they left. A comb told us that Imelda had been praying with a rosary. Extra Religious and sun like fragrance.

I had no more eager left for ill-fated Marcos—after I saw his room.

Nearing Imelda's own bedroom, I caught the whiff of expensive perfume and I knew, without looking, that her room would be opulent and voluptuous.

I didn't want to feel anger again, so I did not go in.

Guns left behind

I went down and saw several high powered firearms on the ground floor. Trompas minus shotguns as well as carbines, which Marcos had probably used when he was still active in the military and Special Forces and Springfields, he must have used them during his student days, Col. Rimuldo said.

Witnesses told me some firearms in the Malacañang armory were stolen by soldiers who fled when the Palace attacked us.

Rendering on my right spotted the Lanai mansion. I believe he might have boarded the case of Nicoy Aquino before. He had not been ill. And he became more conceited with power, the power the people had given him.

He missed the opportunity.

THE PEOPLE

A tank in sea of worshippers

By Wilfredo Villanueva

I DIDN'T SLEEP MY eyes were glued to the radio. A man who said he was a PAMay spoke of the long grey line. 'Soldiers, come," he said. Help Ramos and Enrile and defend our motherland. It sounded like a looming battle between angels and demons.

I had tears in my eyes. I stood up and shouted.

Radio Veritas was playing Jaime Cardinal Sin's exhortation for the people to go the Edsa, and the song "Manilo, Manilo, Mapayong."

I said goodbye to my family, looking at them as they slept.

It was daybreak when I arrived at Edsa.

I helped to barricade Edsa between Crameriteus and Kalaanan avenues. We had no bombs. Even men screamed it was going to be a pitched battle between men and machines.

Towards midday, however, Edsa was full of people. The front moved like a high tide to Ortigas, where cars and buses were used to as roadblocks to control vehicles.

On Ortigas avenue, I saw incidentally vehicle traveling into the midst of people who were wearing yellow. There were many images of Mother Mary in their vast people.

The dark heroes and of no doubt barely vehicle moved like a fort in a sea of worshippers.

The people were mostly praying, imploring Gen. Antonio Taliño to stand down.

Once in a while the machine would roar, like a caged animal whistling to swallow the crowd. There were cries from the women, but out of panic, but of supplications and miracles.

It was like God was there and the hearts were ready to sing Thousand or more like Exodus of God away slave, if were Granted Taliño did not have the fear of the Lord.

But he did fear the Lord.

(The writer is an advertising executive)

'God intervened'

By Antoni E. Hachidal

While events were unfolding fast at Edsa, I heeded the call for citizen support. On the night of Feb. 24, I told my driver to bring all the used tires on my Land Rover and headed for Edsa. My intention was to give away all the tires for burning. There were thousands then. Edsa and the streets leading to it were enlightened.

On Feb. 25, after Aquino and Marcos were proclaimed separately as Presidents, I went to Edsa in the afternoon. Tensions were heightening.

Third, we went home after reports said that huge crowds of people were heading for Malacañang amid rumors that Marcos and his family had fled. There was widespread jubilation among the crowds.

The morning after Marcos left the country, I passed Edsa on my way to visit my sister in Makati. This time, I smelled the smugness of the air I breathed. The air was fresh—energizing, light. I had the feeling that it was intoxicating.

Along Edsa, I noticed the streets were miraculously clean and it was emptied of people, unlike during those recent nights before. It was as if events on those previous nights were dreams and nightmares. The morning after the revolution was a day of awakening, from a deep slumber, facing the glittering sun.

It was then that I realized that God had intervened at Edsa.

I realized the people I met on the road were smiling with joy, while memory of smiling soldiers were giving me the "peace" sign. It was the day of joy, unity, harmony and peace!

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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RAPHIL Rivera blasts out of the sandtrap on hole 8 of the TCC Invitational at the TCC course in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. (JOVI LAO)

Pagunsan pads TCC lead

3rd straight 71 pushes SEAG champ near title

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—JUVIC Pagunsan is 18 holes away from making the swift transition from an amateur champion to a professional winner.

Playing on a course where he capped an illustrious campaign as a national team standout last December, Pagunsan scored a third straight 1-over-par 71 yesterday to open up a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the P4 million The Country Club Invitational here.

The lean, chatty and power-hitting Pagunsan, parred the last 10 holes while his closest challengers struggled on the short greens of the exclusive TCC course and stayed in on the 071 total for top prize in his second tournament as a money player with a 54-hole total of 213.

"Putting will be the key factor in the final round," said the 27-year-old Pagunsan in 18-par, who steadied himself after a roller coaster start of three bogeys and two birdies on the first eight holes of the 6,960-yard course.

Gaudee Lucas, the event's inaugural champion in 2003, moved into position to challenge Pagunsan even as top favorite Frankie Miñoza and defending champion Jerome Bolarano shot similar 2-under 70s to advance on strokes off the lead.

Lucas needed two birdies on the last five holes to match Pagunsan's 71 and six-foot round leader Ronell Nieves for second place at 215. Nieves, a former caddy from Sorsogo's famous Apo course, birdied the 17th then rescued par after barely missing the big lake beside the 18th for a 71.

Aristeo Manalaysay, a brand-new pro like Pagunsan, held the solo lead going into the final nine then stumbled on two bogeys and a double bogey to wind up in a deadlock for fourth with Gerald Escalera at 217. Manalaysay finished with a 74 and Escalera recovered for one of the day's three par 70s.

Former SP Open runner Ruben Bendaño also had a 71 for solo sixth at 218, then came Miñoza and Bolarano who took advantage of their "lucky escape" to catch up with Mats Pacay (75) and Carlito Villaverdeano (75) at 219.

The 46-year-old Miñoza, who is by the count his only the second time, had nines of 33-35 in a five-birdie, three-bogey round. Bolarano birdied three times on the back to highlight a 33-33 trip on the par 70 course that hosted the SEAG golf competition last December.

The two finished tied with five others at the cut-off mark of 221 in the second round. Only two from the group were supposed to complete the last 36 slots for the final two rounds, but regulars Ricky Nuñez, who is holding the tournament in memory his father Don Perfecto, decided to allow all those in the deadlock to advance.

Although Pagunsan's last SP victory came in the Price Cup in late December, it was in the SEAG where Pagunsan capped his distinguished amateur career with a gold medal double, winning the individual competition and powering the national men's team to a runaway victory.

Pagunsan easily bettered the issue. Two qualifying early last month and played in the first pro tournament, under the sponsorship of pro-am tennis magnate Manny and Marianne, at the Mimosa Golf Course where he earned a little over $1,000 after collapsing in the final round.

If he wins, he would pocket one of the biggest championship prizes in a tournament outside of the SP Open.

Top-ranked scores

2nd—Juvic Pagunsan 71-71-71 (213); 218—C. Lucas (71-71-76); E. Nieves (71-71-77); 219—R. Miñoza (75-71-73), M. Pacay (75-71-73), C. Villaverdeano (75-71-73); 220—R. Bendaño (71-75-74), J. Bolarano (70-75-75), A. Manalaysay (74-71-75); 221—G. Escalera (77-71-73), R. Nuñez (73-73-75), J. Ramos (73-73-75), J. Ramos (73-73-75), J. Ramos

Orcollo dazzles in maiden US stint

HE CAME, HE PLAYED, HE CONQUERED.

Dennis Orcollo entered in the United States International Pool Tour hardly noticed. But by Sunday, after topping the tough IPT qualifying tournament C, the 27-year-old pride of Antipas is being hailed as the next Filipino billiards sensation.

The acknowledged Philippine "Money Game King" put up a scintillating show in rolling the winner's table at the Hard Times Billiards in Bellflower, California. He raised the field that included the likes of former US Open titlist Oliver Ortmann and WPA world 8-ball and 9-ball champ Ong Chin-sam of Taiwan.

The 5-foot-6 Orcollo's victory earned him the IPT seed needed to enter the eight IPT season-ending tour with $6 million.

"Dennis' hand overheated all," said Orcollo's bombastic Filipino manager, who supported Orcollo's entry to the US billiard scene. "He may lack the fame in the Philippines, but he's feared as a money game player."

Mariano, who also supports Roman Ideons and Antonio Gabica, in epidemic Orcollo will make returns to the IPT.

"Of course! Bigmac the bite (Orcollo) will reach," said Mariano. "A bite and Dennis made many strategic final shots and the crowd feasted on his game. He sure mellowed the same way Efren 'Bata' Reyes and 'Django' Primitivo Bautista(sic) were mellowed their bodies." Ata Lucero

ORCOLLO (with his symbolic membership card) while Filipino fans swarm over him after winning the US IPT qualifying tournament C in Bellflower, California.

JOYFUL Manila pair victory ride on Canlubang's star in a third-round rally that gave the Sugar Barons the men's division title of the 59th PAL Interclub yesterday.

Canlubang completes PAL Interclub double

By Marong R. Castillo

DAVAO CITY—IT WAS THE SAME STORY ON A DIFFERENT DAY.

Canlubang ripped Southwoods apart as promised on the Broadway to handily retain the men's team championship of the 59th Philippine Airlines Interclub and complete the Sugar Barons' first-ever title sweep yesterday.

Reed-disc Jamil Alzaba, playing in a big-time competition on his home court, cruised to a one-and-one-night one-under-par 71 for 37 points at Apo Golf to lead the Barons' final-day charge that resulted in a six-point win over defending champion Southwoods.

The Barons added 34 OOBs the day to finish with 703 points while hanging out Southwoods' two-point lead at day's start as IP pair members Erwin Velasco and Michael Bibat only scored identical 35s in lead the Canlubang third team's 1,121 to the 8-ball round for a 3,147 aggregate.

"It was really just a matter of time," team playing skipper Luigi Tolo said. "We knew we had the edge in the course and by the time our second guy (Alzaba) and Ling's Bayan succeeded to start get off the 13th green, we knew we had it [won]."

Mark Bernardo, a rookie like Alzaba, posted a second 36 and Bayron accounted for 35 before Bryan Bacungan's 32 rounded out scoring for the side that won the Senior's championship for the first time last Saturday. Veteran Ben Basali's 39 was also in array.

The shotmakers from Laguna added their second leading total of the tournament to 71 in the popular event generally acknowledged as the national club team championship.

Canlubang's overpowering performance at Apo yesterday reprised the team's sizzling second round where it turned allowed following a 25-point outing. Alzaba and Bayron also led the Barons with 33s on Thursday, while mailed with the Carmona-based bent trailing by 11.

The Sugar Barons regained the lead after eight holes and were never up within the last Tagle holed out on No. 9.

Del Monte, the 2004 champion which will be a no-host next year, posted just 110 points to finish third, 49 behind. And Opan's 32 was the best for the Bukidnon host with Constantino contributing 29. Dennis Manalilla 23 and Iggy Clavecilla 29. John Hermosa 23 was throwed.

Stanson Inc. is rebounded from a 27-point effort on Tuesday with a 36, but Gene Bondoc, also a member of the national bowling pool, was good for only 31. The JP of Jong Lapus was disregarded.

"We played very well," Southwoods skipper Thirdy Bacusa said of the Barons. "If you shoot anything close to even par On this course, you deserve to win."

Alzaba, the winner of the latest National Caddies Open last year, submitted two strong rounds on the course where he caddied for more than seven years.

At the Rancho Palos Verdes, California Country Club, regional by 69th Founders Debbas rumor to six years with 472. Black Wash was second with 455.

Nina Verdes topped the Sportswriters Debbas with 63, edging by a point Orchard. Villamor was third at 66. Southwoods ruled the Friendship Division with 352.

Major sponsors are Jamin Asia, AdVue, Boeing, US Aviation, OMAT, Manila Cam, Zenon, PEZCom, Jury 92.3, Royal-Caribbean International, Pagasa People Inks, Monarch Plastic Corp. and Subic Bay Project, UMBI and Unaa Land Devt Corp. MIA-CBN int'l., Fortune Tobacco and Indo-Mindanao Network are the corporate backers with 96.3 Wfield, Asia Brewing Century Park Hotel, Manila Megaworld, 988 City Bowlo and Tambay Shoes the other sponsors.

Here's looking at the 60th PAL Interclub

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GAMA CITY—BARELY HAS THE SMOKE OF battle cleared but my thoughts are on next year's (58) Interclub already.

Know why?

Next year is the 60th edition of the PAL Interclub, the nation's unofficial golf team championship.

If Danong "Sipsip" Ibarra is spliter, I can't blame him. In 1997, Danong scored big by master-minding the golden coalition of the (58) Interclub in Baguio.

Not a single hitch hit the Baguio bash. Danong was wonder even works after it was over.

"Here we go again," Danong tells me over a beer, late lunch at San Angelo' Villere Pie Restaurant along Quirapio Blvd. "The coming PAL Interclub will be another challenge. But I'm not worried now. Hi. I have a strong support staff and I with tournament as our guiding principle. Encomio d'another trouble-free PAL Interclub next year."

The 30th PAL Interclub was extremely memorable for me.

Know why?

I was the PAL Media Tournament that produced dramatic fashion yet!

OK, it's bragging time, fellas. This happens only once in a blue moon so, let me go through, please? Excuse-me's. Bambi Bautista, Henry Ilo Ly and Greg Cruz won't mind—there being 36-hole golf balls anyways.

I've been covering the PAL Interclub for more than a quarter of a century now (there, I've joined the to my years, see?). And, as always, our tournament history is the PAL Media Tournament in most attendance.

After the first round in Baguio, I was three strokes down. By three of buck, I made a move to hold on to second round to win by one.

Yes, by one, fellas.

You see by win in any tournament, it sticks in your consciousness of your life.

It's the reason, I'm sure the PAL Media Tournament never. Even were almost our hundred the event in 1978, or 1979 maybe. But the 1997 victory was the sweetest.

First, the business class ticket I earned in 1997 as winner. I gave it to my daughter, Marissa. That year, Mobay used the ticket to fly to New York via Barcelona. It gave her the thrill of her life as it was her first trip to the Big Apple.

Second, I got a high salute Rollie Bautista, the vice president for ON Corporate Communications, sent me a signed congratulatory note for the feat. Well-written or email as we silliness Rollie is a certified wordsmith like Bob Woodward and Russell Baker, if not William Safire. I had it framed.

Oh, yes, Rollie Bautista.

During the dinner he hosted on Wednesday for the media covering the event, Rollie announced about a plan to come up huge investment programs for next year's PAL Interclub.

"Since we will celebrate next year the 60th year of the PAL Interclub, we have to do something big," he said. "I suggest be filled with memories and memories should be great stuff!"

I second the motion, Rollie.

Call me a dreamer, a romantic, any assignment, and I'll some morning. Even a one-on-one interview with the Baptista. I'll not balk. Try me.

The goal, she times about the (58) Interclub, they will celebrate the a joy to write about.

Meanwhile, not only me but also Mobay is looking forward to next year's event as, let me start bandaging me than I'm starting to prepare once for the PAL Media Tournament in Cagayan de Oro City.

I love the challenge of every big One.

The flying shoes deliver to the par although it wasn't downhill all the way. Some good putts to the 18th green weren't for Ibarra, Danong Ibarrino and Alex Rivera—thanks to the generous Alex. Jake Ayson had four on after my point of nearly 15 years broke to two or Pedro Rivera.

Indeed, you can't take them all.

But alas, you can't lose them all.

(Comments to manilajai@hotmail.com)

Samsung Tour finals at Summit

TAYSON AMETO IS OUT TO PROVE THAT he's the former of local golf stars. He joins the championship division title against four veterans in the fourth Samsung Amateur Golf Tour finals on March 2-5 at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

The 16-year-old lassie will be challenging the likes of Mike Bibat, a member of the gold medal-winning Southwoods team in the recent PAL Interclub, Samsung Southwoods Cup champion Arsenal player Roger Saraspasa and Erwin Velasco in the 54-hole tourney which assembles the champion of a five-leg nationwide elimination series.

Jong Lapid comes in as the fifth participant, replacing Ayala Greenfield leg winner Terence Hiu-imbingco who is now attending the University of Portland in Oregon on a golf scholarship.

Hey Blue Dragon, chief organizer of the Samsung Tour, expects a quality fight from the finalists who will dispute the national title crowned by Roman runner Ilan Chang Hiu. Kim failed to qualify for the finals in three tries.

With Summit Point being a relatively new course, Champs-mail that it will all boil down to who makes the right plays and handles the unpredictable conditions of the course well enough.

Philippine Airlines is the official carrier of the event supported by Volvo Tokyo, KIA, Microsol, Copperwire Sport, Tatami, Sandvik, Body Pro Int'l, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Highlights of the finals will be aired on Sportsplus Channel.

National player Arjay Simpliciano is the favorite to battle Chris Dimaranan, Jeffrey Hernandez, Beverly Mendoza, Jairo Librun and Marlon Wee.

The finalists Men's Division Championship: Ryan Simpliciano, Eric Leon Velasco, Michael Bibat, Jairus Acosta, Jong Lapid, Chris B. Field Manpakdiran, Clifford Gilbert, Shaun Beck, Park Sung-Ae, Gary Galan, Gene B. Song Min Hyung, Hyung Kyung Ho, Hans Carlos, Chris Sinco-Ala, Bill Chan, Glenn L. Ayap Saraspasa, Roger Tan, Song Hun Ahn, Ariel Mikar II, Rudy Pantino. **Class B**: Emmanuel Santiago, Sonny Chui, Armando Papa, Lee Dong Hyun, Jose Serrano. **Ladies Division**: **Class A**: Sun Cabrera, Marian Wee, Nora Sampson, Daniel Espina, Beverly Mendoza, Glenn B. Lyn Manpakdiran, Marian Wee, Joy Sevilla, Shila Abubakaran, Ana Maria Ramos, Jocelyn Gana, Gene San, Claire Alcuaz, Elizabeth Dalusio, Ella Ayson.

Manila's Gem starts Triple Crown chase

THE RACE TO THIS YEAR'S TRIPLE CROWN STARTS today for nine-strong 3-year-olds as they run to their 1st leg of the "Road to the Triple Crown" Stakes (G2) at the Santa Ana Park, mostly on the chance for the P7-million classic race sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) in Manila's Gem, last year's back-to-back juvenile stakes winner who returns to the track after a two-month layoff. Trio colt, owned and bred by businessman Raymund Paqui, will face eight opponents headed by master Gerardo Gardiner-owned by Raymund's brother David Paqui. Manila's Gem and Gardiner-Rancher are trained by Ernesto Sanchez. Other challengers are Eric Night's Sarena, Ed Rodriguez's King Executive, Jun Acosta's Manila's Dream, Albert Dimalanta's Master Logistics, Ray Garcia's Million Dollar, Lorenzo Pastor's Homeland and Herminio Esguerra's Dearest Demon. Winner of the race is set to receive P800,000. Speed Advantage-trapped last year's taking WIN.

Martin-Azor leads Kimoni winners

KIM MARTIN AND JULIUS AZOR HOISTED the homestart advantage of lead here Aniceto Oliva and Francis Dominguez to top Level 1 of Kimoni's doubles play in the first leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 at the Manila Power Badminton Center in San Fernando in Pampanga.

Playing out of Malabon, Martin and Azor rattled seven of the first ten, 15-8, but seasoned it out to the second (17-16) to win Oliva-Santiago.

In the top level of ladies' doubles, the counters of Ann Medalla and Maya Nuesa scored a victory for Pampanga writers they crushed Ana Garcia and Malla Joy Marcelino, 15-7, 15-7.

Close to 300 players were scores in the kick-off leg of the Kimoni Tour which will visit key cities around the country with the most winners of each leg advancing to the Kimoni finals of the Champions this July at the Makati Market! Activity Center in Tha Nes.

Labor nation Michael Carlos and Apple Rodrigues bowling the finals pair of Steve Ygalino Jos Sisons, 13-12, 13-6, to the mixed level event.

Randolph Bulaybay and Leandro Gaspar ruled the Juniors' 15 years-old and below crown while Stanley Macaspac Zbrelle Pascual topped the Seniors' 30 to 20 years old.

SPORTSWATCH

Philippine Open badminton postponed

THE FIRST ISRAEL-KOREA PHILIPPINE OPEN, ORIGINALLY SLATED MARCH 1-5 at the Philsports Arena, has been postponed indefinitely, according to the organizers of the $15,000 event. "In view of the current situations participating countries have been duly advised by their respective governments against traveling to the Philippines for the time being," the organizers said in a statement. The organizers are working with the ISF (International Shuttlecock Federation) to find available date within the international calendar. Ticket holders are advised to hold on to their tickets as these will be honored on the new event dates. For more, contact Yaakov Katz.

Mighty Kings off to big start

THE MIGHTY FLYER KINGS FIRED A FIVE-POINTER TO TAKE RIDDLE TO THE other day by scoring a 17-9 win over Diamondstone in the Amateur Basketball Association (ABA) Championship at the Tambay gym in Quezon. The Kings are scheduled this Tuesday to battle Hermosa in their second-to-last title bid in quest for the Finals. Hermosa has logged in 10 points, including two to the first quarter. Next saw the Kings pull away from the fight, scoring. Ring was ably supported by Jhon Young and Gen Tan, who chipped in 14 points each.

Fistorama, Golf Power today

FISTORAMA FUTURES: TWO OF TOMORROW'S THE BEST TO BOXING'S FUTURES! Emil Gerard and Danilo Lete are 16 rounds. The fight was a supporting bout to Edgardo "Boy" Fortaleza's fight card held recently at the provincial capitol of Malolos. Crowded in Cagayan de Oro City. Historians, supported by Tambay, PCSO, Hope and Bluemoon, to steel nationwide at 2:30 p.m. on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus, featuring College of St. Benilde's Angelo College of St. Benilde Dupre, from the 1st Samsung Intercollegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge, set at 1 p.m.

Gatus, nine others share lead

SAN FERNANDO CITY, PAMPANGA—TOP SEEDS CHARLES GATUS AND JOSE evangelista Fortaleza after 40 minutes to lead nine others on top with 2-0 points apiece on Friday at the start of the Mayor Oscar B. Rodriguez Cup Pitgolf-III Chess Championship at the Robinson's Starmalls here. Other 2-pointers were second seed Mangaran Sia, Alfredo Paez, Emmanuel Sarmiento, Art Bravosola, Lito Bonifacio, Nicanor Ubaldo, Julius Dimagmaliw, Basilio Pandoh and Bernard Valdez. Others were Jose Antonio Gonzales, Ferdinand Lagunzo, Irv round 2 arbiter Tan, assistant of Angeles City, shadow with Barrios.

Werwerasa's 1 bikefest rolls off

THE ANGELES MANGA-CAMPAIGN FEST HARRIES "SEPTEMBER AT SEA" 18 held today with 270 participants. Inside cover substance of 144 km with P60,000 in cash prizes plus trophies and medals at stake. A project of Mayor Herminio Pamintuan, the event is chaired by Johnny Valencia. Tournament director is Jose Santos Jr.

Religon derby stakes P1 million

PROMOTER REGLO LOGON PRESENTS ANOTHER SURE BLOCKBUSTER. THE Langahan's inside derby on March 31, 14, 16 and 18 at Religon Mega Complex with a guaranteed purse of P1 million. The fastest solo champion will also receive a brand new Honda Civic. Entry fee is P4,000. Bids records, Northern of Philippines of the Philippines Cave Builders Association Derby. For more information, please contact Bhawanchi Bombay Thai Religon 4 weeks derby schedule on Feb. 28 with 30 entries. Note that, there can be only five pairs at stake a P100,000 to an entry fee of P5,000. The first-round champion will get P50,000 as bonus. Contact 888-0370, 888-9028 or 882-9872.

Topacio paces GCAP race

JUN TOPACIO OF QUEZON SETTLED AS ONE OF THE UNDERSTANDERS IN THE Caribbean Customs Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 10-mile derby series on Sunday, March 5 at the San Juan Coliseum. Sponsors in Gagasan Complaint 2006 with the organized Cave Builders Association of the Philippines. Topacio is known to ride the field with his .37 forward entry totalling 11 Laurels. Pau, Rakib Philipp (Pinkay Quarter) and Yamda Antonio (Gagasan Complaint 2006) have 11 each on each. Ahmad Ayl Juan Dan (LEO Legend, 10), Ranja Lincoln Pat Dalisdis (Pipe Ma Cruz, 10), Lloyd Rufino Angeles (Legend NFOOD, 9), Manny Pangasian and Arvin Cruz (Pinoy Pangasian, 9). Ang Pinoy Pride and Tanay Cruz (Kandalan-McKinley, 8-6), Ray Boys (PEBP Making, 8-6), Ate Gin Bayot Jason (Cainta LGU,

BACK IN NBC. Valencia City Mayor Jose Galarza Jr. (right) and National Basketball Conference secretary general Tim Palma seal with a handshake the Valencia Golden Harvest's return to the NBC, which kicks off its third season on March 4 for Visayas City.

Nets spoil Francis' Knicks debut; Hawks soar

NEW YORK—RICHARD JEFFERSON scored 22 points and Vince Carter added 20 to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 99-90 victory over the storied New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Jefferson also had eight rebounds and six assists as the Nets won their fourth straight game and eighth in their last 10.

Steve Francis (11-23) also got 19 points from Nenad Krstic, who went 11-for-11 from the field for the Nets, who dominated early and then survived a late New York rally to retreat to the fourth quarter.

The game marked the Knicks debut of Steve Francis, who was acquired in a three-player deal with the Orlando Magic on Wednesday.

The point guard received a warm welcome from the crowd when he was introduced, but the mood changed quickly after the Nets scored the game's first 10 points.

New Jersey led, 29-8, at one point in the first quarter and never trailed in the game, leading by nine points at the half and by 16 after three quarters.

That lead swelled to 21 points in the third quarter, drawing boos from the Garden crowd, before the Knicks outscored the Nets 35-21 in the fourth quarter to act as temper to ensure a rally.

Coach Larry Brown's—led Nets to second straight and 20th of 28, slipping to 15-39, with Francis scoring the game's final points on a three-pointer 41.9s fraction.

New York has the second-worst record in the NBA, ahead of only Charlotte.

Channing Frye led the Knicks with 20 points and had eight rebounds.

Francis had 26 points in 39 minutes in his first game as a New York uniform.

In Indianapolis, Joe Johnson notched his career-high with 43 points and added 13 assists as the Atlanta Hawks spoil the Indiana Pacers, 117-112, in overtime.

Reja Stojakovic led Indiana with a career-high 34 points.

In Cleveland, Gilbert Arenas scored 30 points as the Washington Wizards got by the Cavaliers, 102-94.

LeBron James led Cleveland with 22, but was 6-for-18 from the field in the second half.

In Memphis, Tim Duncan had 19 points and tracked down 16 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs survived a late rally attempt to edge the Grizzlies, 81-80.

In Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 36 points, including the winning three-point shot in overtime, as the Denver Nuggets edged the slumping Minnesota Timberwolves, 102-101.

Reuters

WINTER OLYMPICS

Everybody finds a reason to party

TURIN, ITALY—JULIA MANCUSO'S giant slalom gold medal sparked celebrations in Switzerland and Italian—and Slovenia still. Hosted helped perk up Canada's post-Games by winning a long-awaited Olympic men's triumph in curling—their country's first. Turner.

Another tradition and controversy teams also had some success to be buoyant Friday with all 10 athletes under the super umbrella together to run-of-competition skipping with from last weekend's unprecedented rush by Italian people. But that issue is far from over as the Winter Games.

The International Olympic Committee said it will press ahead with a far-reaching probe launched on every athlete after the bulging of marijuana athletes and staff by police under the body's anti-drug laws.

"The IOC takes this affair very seriously and is determined to do everything in its power to bring full clarity to what has happened," IOC spokesperson Giselle Davies said. "We must look at the bigger picture."

Hog-tied coach Walter Mayer, whose presence in Turin sparked the anti-doping raids, is still in a psychiatric ward in Austria.

Canada beat Finland, 10-4, in eight ends to win the men's curling gold medal, making Mancuso the oldest gold medalist ever at the Winter Olympics.

The men's hockey finalists were decided—Pacific neighbors Finland and Sweden will play for the title Sunday. Sweden beat world champion Czech Republic, 7-3, and Finland blanked Russia, 4-0.

There were some positives in some country—positive stories that is.

In the final event of the women's program, super-mom Daniela Ceccarini won the Czech Republic's first gold medal of the games, edging favorite Julia Ichtchenko of Russia to win the 30-kilometer cross-country race in 1 hour, 22 minutes, 21.4 seconds. AP

WOODS: Crucial birdie puts Goldwood in final hole. ⇒

MICKELSON: Shows a real lead this head. ⇒

Stars fade in Match Play

CARLSBAD, California—Tiger Woods roared a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole for Chad Campbell to win, 1 up, and reach the March Play Championship quarterfinals on a vicious day Friday for some of golf's biggest names.

Beside Woods, second-seeded Vijay Singh, hometown favorite Phil Mickelson and defending champion David Toms were handed out in the third round at La Costa Resort.

Right when it looked as though the top seeds were on a collision course in the Championship, the fickle weather must was left with Nitrat Sysoon. 10s, 11 at the lone player from the top 16 down.

Singh still drained lasers, what it's like to play on the weekend at La Costa after missing a good chance to win on the 18th and losing to Padraig Harrington in 19 holes.

Mickelson, the No. 5 seed, never led against David Howell of England and didn't much stuff of a chance with Howell twice making long birdie putts, closing out Lefty, 3 and 1.

Toms, the No. 8, lost his magic at La Costa until now his eighth straight appearance and by going down to US Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman, 4 and 3.

Chris DiMarco was the No. 7 seed and said his disabled "fans were many players at La Costa with his toughness.

"After he [Singh] won my match I play right with birdies and he only made one in a 3-and-2 loss to Darrin Lewis Jr.

Greenie, the No. 3 seed, never trailed defending Luke Donald, 3 up.

Campbell said—certain he was headed into overtime while standing in the rain at the 18th green as Woods rivaled to study his 12-foot birdie putt.

Campbell expected the putt to drop like so many others.

"I don't call?" Campbell said. "I was getting ready to go to Plan 2. It to be here on with you."

AP

VIJAY Singh still does not know what it's like to play the weekend in La Costa. ⇒

Sharapova books Dubai final ticket

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—Maria Sharapova ousted defending champion Lindsay Davenport, 2-6, 6-1, 6-0, on Friday to reach the final of the Dubai Women's Open against Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Henin-Hardenne will play for her third Dubai title in four years after beating Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-2, 7-5, in a day when the heat and humidity had to play twice, and endured another lengthy rain delay.

Rain washed out the quarterfinals the day before.

Third-seeded Sharapova earlier overcame her Russian friend, 2nd-seeded Davenport 2nd-seeded Dubai champion for her debut in the Tokyo semifinals at the end of the month.

In the semi, second-seeded Davenport blasted past Sharapova to lead, 4-0, and had two more breaks before swapping up the flu it at set.

A jolted Sharapova raced through the second set, earning three breaks with incredible forehand and backhand winners. In the deciding set, Sharapova broke for 5-1 and served out to make the Dubai final on debut.

"I played two players of completely different styles today and that took away time exhausting," said the 19-year-old Russian, who upset Henin-Hardenne between her two matches catching up on her three-set losses.

Sharapova will play for her 11th career title, and first since June, but she'll lost her last three matches to Henin-Hardenne, including to her record Paris Australian Open.

Henin-Hardenne's appearance this week was her first on tour since she retired in the final stages Open final against Amelie Mauresmo with severe stomach pain from anti-inflammatories for a shoulder injury. She hasn't competed a set in three matches, to extend her record in Dubai to 11-0. AP

Golden Wheel Awards slated Tuesday

THE COUNTRY'S BEST MOTORSPORTS heroes will be finishing the third annual Golden Wheel Awards on Feb. 28 at the Airport Casino Filipino.

The affair is being organized by Golden Wheel Award Foundation chair Jolanie Tan to pay tribute to the achievers in various disciplines of motorsports like motocross, road racing, rally, rally-cross, drag racing, slalom, dirt oval, karting, car karting and Autocross 5.

"The Golden Wheel Driver of the Year awardee will be chosen from among the different motorsports champions during the gala night sponsored by Casino Filipino, Yokohama, Filipinas Shell, Boysen and Sun Mighty Corp.

"We are proud that the Golden Wheel Awards has served as an inspiration for our Filipino drivers to reach greater heights, not just in local competition but also on the international racing scene," Tan said. "We're hoping to see our esteemed drivers expand their horizons to include top-level events such as F1 and other races in Europe."

The Awards committee is still sifting information on the candidates and will reveal the Driver of the Year awardee only during the Golden Wheel Awards Night.

Among the driving nominees this year are Asian motocross runner-up Glenn Aguilar, Asian Formula 3 driver Yoyoy Sy and Asian karting champion Richele Bautista.

Aguilar again bagged the Princess Rules of the Year Trophy for his one-year's FIM-FIM Asian motocross crown, he topped the championship round and managed the best Filipino finisher by standing eighteenth overall.

Bautista, who bagged the Asian karting crown for the third straight year. Last year, she won the same choice as Driver of the Year.

VICTORIA: is complimentary singing dancing.

MTV queen hits more than just high notes

By Jasmine M. Puyo

SILENT SINGER VICTORIA ALEXANDRIA HAS been thinking more than just the high notes.

As the latest member of the saucy-but-sophisticated Asian-inspired thinking and punch, tag her way to prominence in music and screen stage.

But there has been no easier adjustment for the Ghana-Venezuelan artist.

"In a way it's the same as show biz," said Aguilar, who was crowned MTV queen for presenting local music videos in the 1990s. "I don't think you'll have to abandon it if you don't have the brain and the discipline."

Victoria's winning story that in 1996, Aguilar shares how she managed to bring sports and entertainment together.

"I was interested in music, but the extension if you show-on," she shared. "It's enough, honesty to say performing because I needed to be in shape. I do dance music, I do high-energy dance and I need the stamina. I used to run, but I also thought I wanted to learn self-defense. I want to learn a skill while learning aikido. So this is what I did."

But little did she know that her regular work out had given her unsolicited fans.

"I was surprised when they invited me to the BF Room last year," Aguilar said. "The coach had been to my dancing every time I go to the gym. He saw [in Facts]."

"I was hesitant because they'd been training for months for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games," she added. "I was the last minute. I only had to lose and a half months to train."

But as it turned out, Aguilar just had to tag her for international. She took center stage last December when she won the gold medal in the 4x400m event of many that in the regional meet.

"It was my first competition ever," she said. "It was something I didn't plan."

Yet for the artistic turn of many, that which just to a dedication of pursuits and perseverance. It's performed before the competitive feeling crowd.

Aguilar has been training for taekwondo. SI.

Though Victoria takes center, the name that's also demands a great deal of attention.

"You need strength, grace and balance," she explained. "There are movements where you're just standing or one leg and doing squats. So you're like standing your body weight on one leg and you're bouncing. It's very difficult. A few minutes of that you'll get tired."

Aguilar said every phase to control the balancing act between her shows.

Aguilar shines in Camel mode

SILIMAN CITY—Glenn Aguilar scored the new 125-category as organizers for Asian Federation of Sport Taekwondo with the spotlight on the new sport class in the Federation-sponsored Taekwondo and Championship Series 2006 @ the SIU Gymnasium over the weekend. Aguilar lived up to his billing as the number one ranked open-class athlete, making up another big name as he outclassed veteran Asian Karting and Gabrielle Gay Ambon in the first bout and Robinson and Tanaka in the successive singles top honors in the cat. "125 class of the second name sponsored by Camel. Sid Robinson, one of the emerging names to rise in the ranks, prevailed in a double celebration by the Filipino camp, earning victories judged Aguilar the honors. Asian champions, Ambon gave another big Robinson and Aguilar both finished with 4-0 points, but the Tanaka-Aguilar bout had big interest in the crowd as expected afternoon bout.

'Bad Boy' leads Clark duathlon contestants

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOSEL "Bad Boy" Mendoza leads a big field of duathletes in the first leg of the CMG Duathlon series on Sunday at the Clark Expo inside Clarkfield, Pampanga.

National champion Mendoza, who has been undefeated in the last three years in all major duathlon races in the country, will be challenged by Jeffrey Valdez, Augusto Benedicto and Joseph Alfonso while in the distaff side, reigning national women's champion Rose Tangco will be up against rookie Cindy Glen Palmero from Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya.

Also competing in the event are the country's riders in the World Duathlon Championship in Australia last year, but who could not her participation in the age-group competition of the event.

"We expect all the country's top duathletes to join because this race will practically determine the competitive power of our national team to the Asian Duathlon Championship to be hosted by the Clark Development Corp. host Jamie Clark," said local race organizer Melvin Pasion of the Clark Multi-sports Group.

The race, which will be a 10-km—20K-40m—5K run event, is expected to attract close to 300 duathletes coming from the adjoining provinces in Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan and Metro Manila.

THE NEGROS grown-out Negrenses, who defeated North Catabato Thursday, advance to the finals against defending champion National Capital Region today.

Teen star gets back at old foe

Negros, NCR arrange PFF title showdown

By Cedell Tapas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD, NEGROS—TEENAGE midfielder Jason Pardoy of Negros found the lure to Iloilo in the National Under-19 tournament last year so much that he couldn't wait to get back at an Iloilo squad.

So when he got his chance yesterday in an even more prestigious tournament, Pardoy made the most out of it, leading Negros Occidental to a 2-1 win over its rival before a hostile crowd at the Bacolod pitch.

The win gave the Negrenses the first finals berth in the PFF-National Men's Open championships.

Defending titlist National Capital Region-Luzon Hawk Condones, 4-2, in penalties and will face Negros for the title at 2 p.m. today. The two teams were tied, 1-1, at regulation.

"I had always wanted to beat any team from Iloilo after the under-19 tournament [because] our losses we could learn from that game," said Pardoy, the youngest member of the Negros squad at 19.

Pardoy played a crucial role for Negros in the under-19 tourney, where it saw its bid ended by Iloilo, 2-1, also in the semis in Baguio City.

But for Pardoy, winning in this football-crazy town made it more special.

"We lost at home so it's also special that we won in their home field," said Pardoy who struck in the 76th minute, blasting a curling free kick 20 yards from the left flank that silenced the crowd.

At the 2600M Negros' lead to 2-0 with a brilliant individual effort in the 26th minute, before Ruben Cisneros gave Iloilo a ray of hope with a goal from close range in the 39th.

"But our defense held in general in the second half," Negros coach Freddie Lacorte said, crediting the sterling performances of defenders Joel Hilo-Ilo and Ziggy Tuazo.

Lacorte is hoping to steer Negros to its first national crown after 2002 in this tournament organized by the Iloilo FOOTBALL Association in cooperation with Go Hotel Tagaytay and Hyundai Jeny Trebiar and sponsored by Red Ribbon Saturday, 26a and 30min.

Juggernaut scores easy victory

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Rey Malonzo 'willing to serve' as OMB chief

MANDANO

MALONZO

By Nini Valera

EDU MANDANO, CHAIR OF the Optical Media Board, has a year of office until December this year.

But talk of replacing him from the anti-piracy post that he has occupied since 2004 began circulating after his recent brush with Sen. Manny Villar, director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines, over the distribution of funds from the profits of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

The name of former Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo has surfaced in Pak Boys as Mandano's possible replacement. Members have also been circulated the name by reps of the US trade representative as a policy hit spot—the first time in five years," Mandano related. Only Mr. Arroyo has the right to appoint him, he said. But OMB chair is appointed by the President. "I serve at her pleasure."

In a phone interview with Inquirer on Thursday, Malonzo noted that he was working not only for the movie industry but also for the consumer and product licensing businesses. "The movie industry is only a part of the scope of my job as OMB chair."

Malonzo had just arrived from Cebu City where he conducted a hard opinion a local pirated video products.

Confirmation

Malonzo confirmed to Inquirer, also last Thursday, that some names in the film industry are working to have him installed as OMB chair. He did not elaborate. "[But] I'm willing to serve if I'm appointed," he said.

Like the President, Malonzo and Mandano are members of the Lakas Party. Mandano's predecessor in the anti-piracy board was Ben Resurreccion, also a member of Lakas.

Malonzo denied that he was looking for Mandano to replace Mandano. "I did not make any [such] recommendation to the President," he said. Inquirer reported Thursday.

Malonzo said an ABS-CBN crew quizzed him talking to Malonzo at the Manila Hotel on Monday. "We just exchanged pleasantries and didn't talk about the OMB."

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MTRCB: 'South Park' offensive

By Marinel R. Cruz

CABLE DISTRIBUTOR SOLAR Entertainment has discontinued the airing of the animated series "South Park" on Jack TV after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board complained of the program's "offensive nature."

In a press statement dated Feb. 23, MTRCB Chair Marilyn Ligandahan said the board found that Solar Entertainment "violated the agreement to desist from airing the cartoon until further notice."

Ligandahan ordered the review of the program's episodes from Jan. 30 to Feb. 16 after the board received calls and text messages from viewers saying "South Park" offended the sensibilities of Roman Catholics.

Blasphemy

Ligandahan said she received a vote message complaining that the show "blasphemed Jesus Christ by calling Him a sinner." She said the letter pointed out "vulgar dialogue" for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"South Park," follows the misadventures of four foul-mouthed third graders—Stan, Kyle, Kenny and Cartman. The show is set in the town of South Park in Colorado. It is based on the short film by Trey Parker and Matt Stone titled, "The Spirit of Christmas."

Ligandahan said an adjudication board is scheduled to meet with Solar Entertainment on March 6 to discuss the fate of the show. The adjudication board is composed of Orlando Olgado, Alfred Vargas and lawyer Ibrahim Lucas.

"We're not undressed at the opinions, but I am not the only one whose done was feeling unDolbe David. I personally think the show violated MTRCB rules and regulations, but it's best to wait for the official decision of the board," Ligandahan told Inquirer Entertainment yesterday.

Ligandahan also asked concerned viewers to have all their future complaints duly notarized by the Board.

THEY'RE ALL I

They're getting smaller

By Clarissa Batino

SOMETHING SEEMS to have gone into—or should we say anything that could go into the mobile phone.

Music videos posed the area. Here, wrapsquare and short films are joining the bandwagon, reportedly with the coming of the third generation, or 3G, phone services.

Video channel MTV Philippines and Inducom Technologies Inc., a unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., have teamed up to create enhanced music television material for viewing on the cell phones.

Inducom's interactive content division called CDM, and MTV Philippines are considering local MTV-branded mobile imaging, intone services for

THEY'RE ALL I

Joey and Sharon bat for positive TV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"WE DON'T WANT TO FOSTER A CULTURE of mendicancy," said filmmaker Joey Reyes, executive producer of "Sharon," the new Sunday primetime show of Sharon Cuneta on ABS-CBN.

"Sharon and I agreed on both wanted a show that's Pinoy, life-affirming and innovative," Joey Reyes said.

They wanted concepts realizing the program's primetime age, he said.

"Long before the Hi-tas tragedy, we already wanted a show that was positive without being condescending and subtly positive."

ABS-CBN is reportedly studying the possibility of bringing back "Minamasa," whose unnecessary violence resulted in a stampede that killed 71 people and hurt scores of others.

Media, Reyes said, has been so "negative" of late.

He heralded how TV shows had focused on the raging word war between Eda Manzano and Joe Marlinez and ignored the three awards of the indie film, Lino Brocka's Maynila: Mga Kuko ng Liwanag.

Award-winning director bewails 'culture of mendicancy,' saying viewers should instead be told they should help themselves

Reyes said, "In light of the 'Witnesses' slumgods and Leon Guinitaran, there's a need for more positive choices. After what ABS-CBN went through in the past months, we wanted to be more courageous and try out new things—I don't mean showcase new artists."

Joey and Sharon are not in love on-screen; they'll rather encourage the culture of hard work and initiative.

"We'd like to tell the viewers that we care one help them for themselves," he said. "They shouldn't depend on government, charity organizations, or guns down."

Hard sell

Such a concept might be a tough sell for the fickle audience, he admitted. "It's a big gamble. I can only hope viewers will support it."

But how supportive is the network?

"They have no choice: it's Sharon," he quipped. "If anyone could be the face of positive

JOEY ALEA

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Joey and
bat for po

From page A2-1

TV, it's Sharon. He was to
government can do that."

For her part, Sharon ex
plained that the aims to "b
space and uplift TV and
hopefully cancel out all neg
anxiety."

Two decades on air, and
she has witnessed the conv
formation of the TV land
scape.

"Scandalous shows and
humorless are the top
most," she noted. "Our goal is
to emulate (Spain Philippi
shows."

For the spirit

In other words, the
said, love will be a show
for the spirit. "Right be
here (for) the
tragedy, I told my bosses
Lolibby Lopez and Chaw
Isorena-Concio. 'With all
due respect, please don't
give me a show just for

They're .

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"It's a whole new level of
experience for MTV fans,"
said Infocom president CEO
Edgardo Barcelo in a state
ment. "MTV is becoming
more accessible and exciting
because of new content that
will be made available."

Video wall

CUBE, according to Info
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Juror concerned about young singers' choice of songs

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

and blowing high notes in the predictable "Ito-ay" style associated with "diva-itosis" in these parts.

All of these elements distract, and distract from the fact that this is a budding singing woman. Instead of pulling in young talents in the right direction, the three mimic them as if quite bad performing habits and attitudes. This unhealthy trend should stop.

All we need to do is to look at the fiddling fashion of the "Star Search" talents search on US television (telecast here on the ETC channel).

The child talents there are made to sing songs appropriate to their tender ages, and nobody is compelled to perform like pint-sized Madonnas or Whitney Houstons. Why should we let them be responsible for this?

ITS — Channel's hits have come out of an "Star Search." Many years ago, Randy Roberto scored major points on the show. Recently, Jo-Ze Mark Molde figured in one of the program's three final contenders by the top prize of P100,000. Unfortunately, he landed only in third place.

But, just a month later, said his young Filipino counterpart named Marshel bounced the competition and ended up as the weekly winner.

Vocal

PASS of (the shows) Quezon Taculino, explains. The executive maker of "kick-out" series doesn't see new variety shows that lend themselves to the karaoke-like, "Pinoy," (he's) included, he isn't nagging the movies, and is only one of its producers. Still, even a smidgen of Taculino goes a long way with his fans, so the title's release in the United States on "Quezon Taculino Presents Pinoy" is welcome by a lot.

The film, which is about young people bored teen on Eastern European beach that doubles as a torture chamber, is directed by Eli Roth, whose 2002 feature debut, "Cabin Fever," grossed $30M in video and DVD sales on a $1.5M budget.

'Mahawa'

RAMBARDEE's new album, "Mahawa," kicks off with "Handa" as centre single. Its music video directed by Joe Rodriguez recently premiered on MTV and got great feedback.

Other cuts include "Chickboy," "Ilwa Ito Ba?," "Tikmakawla," "Ambayan," and "E.K.E." Kamikaze headmates are Allan Bandoma, James Antone, Lod Tayag, Jomel Llanos and Jay Contreras.

KHANDH Cuenca emulates Oprah Winfrey.

Sharon ositive TV

the color of it. I need for you to understand my goals and I need your full support."

The new diva promises tonight on ABS-CBN at 8:45 p.m.

"This may sound dramatic to, but it's really from my heart," Sharon said. "I want to enlighten and empower my audience. I hope others follow suit."

It's not all serious stuff, though.

"We have a feature on sing-along [Box members]," she said.

Sharon added: "Her co-host Dino Khwaja and Jaymee Joaquin did the sing-along feature because she obviously can't go to Boracay and Divisoria."

It will be a "fun, unpredictable" show, she said. "For the debut episode I baked 12 cutest cakes for the audience!"

» Turn to page A23-4

MTV Philippines Managing Director and VP Jack Madrid said this deal gives MTV additional media platforms to reach out especially to tech-savvy audiences.

"This deal will deliver value to our partners and allow them to connect with their marketing messages," said Madrid in a statement.

"The only way we can do this is to work with companies like Infocast," noted MTV Director of Brands and Business Development Jojo Sison. "With Infocast, we are tapping the strengths of the mobile SMS] Group—mobile, Internet and third."

Cliff Interactive vice president Joy Atienza said the partnership reflects the adoption of a content company strategy by both companies.

"We are sharing each other's expertise. We would also like to tap the MTV market. We know that MTV and, in particular, music is a very powerful tool for that market," he said. "It's actually a natural partnership."

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Nelly	Dilemma	[illegible]
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Green Jellies	Cows	COWS
Green Jellies	Hallelujah get EGGPO	[illegible]
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ENTERTAINMENT

FOR Filam dancer Cheryl Burke, here with partner Drew Lachey, the "Dancing with the Stars" performance in Disneyland is the most memorable.

Fearless wife vs frightened wife

WEISZ WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES—A FEARLESS WIFE AND A frightened wife lead the supporting actress race for the Academy Awards.

Rachel Weisz is the Oscar favorite for "The Constant Gardener," though it's a tough category to call, loaded with a cast of veterans and young faces.

A winner at stakes key Hollywood awards, Weisz faces her strongest challenge from Michelle Williams in "Brokeback Mountain," with Amy Adams of "Junebug," Catherine Keener of "Capote" and Frances McDormand of "North Country" rounding out the field.

Brad Stevens for "The Missing" movies, Weisz has a gift for imbuing characters with sly intelligence, whether in commercial flicks or artier films. It was the first Oscar nomination for Weisz, who said the sudden event at Ralph Reuters could [illegible] have been honored as well.

"It's a supporting role I was playing, and I was supporting him, so it is disappointing he wasn't nominated," said Weisz, who stars the Golden

FRANCIS G.A.

Chemistry and a drive to win

It's the day of reckoning for Fil-Am finalist in the popular US TV tilt, 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES—CHERYL BURKE, THE Filipino-American Dancing partners of '99 Improv Drew Lachey in "Dancing with the Stars" which debuted Sunday night (Monday noon in Manila) may not speak Tagalog but, she quipped, "I can definitely understand it whenever Mom starts talking about me."

Mom is Sharli Rachel Burke, who came to the US as a nurse in 1977 and now runs three businesses in Daly City, California. The Stockton native is married to Dr. Robert Wolf and counts among her family stepdaughter Mandy Wolf, Cheryl, and Nicole Wolf, who is the youngest daughter.

"My Dad and Mom used to take me to Filipino parties when I learned that is really is not fun without dancing," Cheryl said "so on could 99, [illegible] on natural dancers. The minute they hear music, they get up and show off their natural rhythm."

Cheryl has the genes of a mother who is an amateur ballroom dancing competitor and a seasoned ballroom teacher who taught Bob Barker in a 10 minutes in Marina Baja. Cheryl remembered immediately liking ballroom dance from "from day one."

When I called the New York-based Brit first dance-trained ballroom dancing champion if she got a chance to talk with Monique Rimando, the other Filipino-American ballroom dancing champion who dances with Arnaiz Fort Jady Jenkins Mijares, she replied in the negative. "Orange was as much as Stacy Dashiell, one of the finalists," Cheryl said.

Neither was she able to talk either with her sister Ms Pan, actress Tia Carreon, who was earlier voted off.

Cheryl confirmed that she did not learn much about Drew or '99 Degrees before they were paired up by the show. Now, after going through hundreds of hours of rehearsals and dancing together all the way to the finals, the trio are "close friends for life."

While the pair has scored the second highest judges and viewers who vote online and by phone with their tango (a perfect 20) and paso doble, Cheryl's favorite dance each Drew was the Jive. Many remember another Drew Lachey, and Tony Dovolani as Cheryl and Drew's closest rival for the top prize. The other team is football's Jerry Rice and wife Trahanovsky.

In an event, Cheryl and Drew scored perfect scores with the judges' Director coaching to stay look good as they go into the Sunday finals. Message boards were abuzz with rants about the show's co-host dance, especially Cheryl's choreography. Audience votes Thursday will make up 50 percent in the final determination of the winners while the judges' vote on both Thursday and Sunday will count for the other 50 percent.

On the second season, "Dancing with the Stars" proved to have durable appeal. The show, finally called by its acronym "DWTS" by followers, attracts as many as 20 million viewers each episode and even beats the popular "Survivor" in the ratings game.

Cheryl intends to visit the Philippines soon. "I want to personally thank Filipinos everywhere who voted and supported me," she declared.

How is the Filipino side of you expressed in your dancing?

My musicality and ability to anticipate beauty in my dancing—I feel that the Filipino in me makes them come out more naturally.

Did you perform Filipino folk dances or, for example, school shows?

Unfortunately, I never had that opportunity.

What do you enjoy most during visits to the Philippines?

Experiencing the culture and the unmatched Filipino hospitality. I have traveled all over the world to compete and I can proudly say that only Filipinos will offer their own bed to a guest and make him feel comfortable in their homes. I enjoy visiting my cousins and other relatives while, unfortunately, doesn't happen too often.

What is your favorite Filipino food?

I wish I could have stopped right now. I am like keeping shanghai, adobo, kare-kare—but no lugaw, please.

Did you and Ms Carreon get to talk about your shared Filipino heritage?

Tia is one of my favorites among the celebrity contestants. She is so down to earth and friendly. She is so Filipino to boot. She always wants to deal with and be Filipino.

In a Filipino-American, how challenging is it to succeed in the world of dance, especially in the very competitive field of International ballroom dancing?

I think that's similar on as American in the international dance world. As Dan Stiel, Filipino competitor doesn't matter unless you're Russian. The stereotype Russians are "hungry" in that they really have the drive to do well.

Do you ever sense that Drew senses you are serious but you do from time to time you comfortable?

Drew knows when I'm having those times and knows how to comfort me. We are very compatible that way.

How have you succeeded in getting him to convey the type you want him to? How would of a dancer influence is his wife Lee since she is a choreographer, too, and dances with 98 Degrees?

We work on it week by week. Dancing is all about muscle memory. The more you do a routine, the more it gets memorized by your muscle. While Lee has very done smash choreography it is while she is eight months pregnant, I try and get her opinion every once in a while on what looks good for Jives and so.

Why do you think that you and Drew did very well at a dancing couple?

From Day One, Drew has always wanted to win and has put in all the necessary work. More important, our dancing on the floor coordinates highly in our routine.

Has Nick Lachey dropped by to watch you rehearse?

Nick has been in almost every show and has dropped by a couple of times to watch our practice.

What has been your most memorable moment on screen?

Our performance in Disneland. I was so touched by the overwhelming reception from our fans.

How fulfilling?

So far, making the finals.

How frustrating?

Every Saturday morning when I have to come up with choreography to some music chosen by the producers! Did Drew and I are not familiar with.

What's your advice to Filipinos who dream of

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Mostly new or 'snubbed' actors on the Oscar list

LOS ANGELES... MARKET TIMES GLOBE... tors of the actors nominated for the 2006 Academy Awards are Hollywood newcomers or hugely popular stars who never previously received Oscar despite their box office triumphs.

Of the 20 actors competing for the four acting statuettes this year, 14 are first-time nominees while six have previously competed for cinema's highest honors which will be handed out on March 5 in Hollywood.

"There are a lot of new faces at the Oscars this year, many of them people who have done over the years with many roles and many films," Ghosh Pandey, founder of the movie website Boxoffice-guru.com, told AFP.

Among the new names to win recognition from the 5,830 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters are Terrence Howard, nominated as Best Actor for "Hustle and Flow," and oral newcomer Keira Knightley, Best Actress nominee for "Pride and Prejudice" at the tender age of 19.

Youthful arrivals

Other youthful new arrivals include Amy Adams, 26, nominated as best supporting Actress in "Junebug," and Rachel Weisz, 34, her supporting Actress contender for the thriller "The Constant Gardner." Only four of this year's nominees for best leading and best supporting roles—20 actors and 20 actresses in all—already boast Oscars on their mantelpieces.

They are four-time nominees William Hurt, Frances McDormand and British Dame Judi Dench, who won Oscars in

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HBO. Helen with Ralph Fiennes in "The Constant Gardener."

earless wife . . .

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From page A2

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ENTERTAINMENT

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JOSE "Sway" Peralta

4 leave 'Idol'

Fil-Am Sway still in there; heartthrobs emerge

NEW YORK—SOME THREE ARE 30. American Idol" booted four contestants Thursday night (Friday in Manila)—two guys and two girls—in the show's first elimination round of the fifth season.

Television's top-rated show tallied viewers' votes and axed three off the bottom two of each sex—Becky O'Donohoe, Stevie Scott, Bobby Bennett and Mikinch Hall.

Judge Paula Abdul's eyes brimmed with tears when O'Donohoe, 25, got the cut after receiving the lowest number of votes. The New York native, who sang "Because the Night," made other news this week when Marlon released some sexy photos of her and her twin sister, Stevie, that he had taken a couple of years ago. (See photo.)

"I think you're going to be a very successful model," said terrific judge Simon Cowell.

Scott, a 29-year-old from Rio Oso, Calif., drew criticism from Cowell, who said her performance of "To Where You Are" was "forgettable."

Bennett, a 26-year-old Barry Manilow fanatic from Denton, endured criticism from Cowell as well for his theatrical rendition of "Unpredictable."

"It was a nightmare that would have Barry Manilow screaming in horror," Simon said.

But Bennett shook it off.

"I will always like Simon," he said.

Cowell also nodded Hall, 27, for his "very age" rendition of "Come to My Window."

Lesson learned

"It's a lesson learned," Cowell said. "You have to stand out in the crowd."

Fil-Am Jose "Sway" Peralta is still hanging in there. On the guys' night this week, Sway was the first to make judge Randy Jackson exclaim, "We got a bona fide rock star!"

Meanwhile, early favorites have emerged: finalists are Young and Jojo Brown, both strong contenders.

"American Idol" has been soundly beating NBC's Olympic television in the ratings, drawing about 30 million viewers per telecast this season.

Host Ryan Seacrest said on Thursday's telecast that he now had to entertain some 40 million votes (him) to evaporate.

Most said women have been competing separately since the Pete Sheehemen returned last. 17, but a co-ed gender tangle all featuring the last 12 performers will begin March 14. The finale is slated for May 24. AP

BECKY O'Donohoe, right, with twin sister, Jessie, in the image taken two years ago for Maxim Online's fantasy baseball game.

Big blast from the past

NEW YORK—THE FIRST TIME BARRY Manilow immersed himself in pop radio, he was an unknown singer-songwriter looking for his first hit with a song called "Mandy"—it turned he wasn't too fulfilled about.

So he decided to check out what the competition had to offer.

"I turned the radio on and heard 'Bang Fu Fighting' and 'Disco Duck'," said Manilow, laughing. "I said, 'These people need me!' And that was my first entrance into pop music."

Now, some three decades later, Manilow, still disenchanted with pop radio, finds himself needed again.

But instead of coming to the rescue of listeners with the sentimental, soul-schmaltzy ballads that made him famous, he has returned with "The Greatest Songs of the Fifties"—on Arista Records—a collection of classic romantic tunes, including reverent songs like Elvis Presley's "Are You Lonesome Tonight" and the album's first single, "Unchained Melody."

Frustration

"I think if 'Unchained Melody' does what I think it can do, I think there is an audience out there that would become a sight of relief—that finally there is a melody, and orchestration, production, and a vocalist that is giving them a song that they can just listen to... and not be annoyed by the vocal acrobatics that vocalists seem to bring to impressive," said Manilow, with a hint of frustration in his voice.

In the late, late afternoon, sitting thick coiled not by sighing, but by easing to [illegible] Spin City [illegible]

"I hadn't really thought about this '50s. The '50s kind of passed me by when I was growing up," said the 58-year-old Manilow. "When I began to get into music and actually find myself connecting to music, it wasn't those songs. It wasn't the '50s, it was the generation before the '50s, the Ella Fitzgeralds and the Sinatras and the ones like Johnny Mercer."

But he decided to give the idea a condition.

[illegible] Simply because Ennis suggested it.

What do, if you Dave who [illegible] Manilow a year, signing him to his new Arista label 31 years ago and pushing him to record the '50s. I his song "Mandy."

"It is difficult for an artist of my age to do an original album," Manilow conceded. "And then Clive came with this interesting idea."

As he took David's suggestion—and his list of about 60 songs—and started to do some[illegible] the more of them to that passed him by. And he found

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SUN CELLULAR

Big blast from the past

Viewpage A4-1

himself excluded.

"What I found was that they were good," he said. "They were well written, they were inventive."

And they remain timeless, encouraging with listeners some 30 years after they were originally recorded.

Manilow has been so inspired by the success of the latest project, he is open to exploring the music of other eras as well.

"I wonder if people would enjoy a tribute to the songs of the '50s, in this style. And if that works, maybe there's a 'Songs of the '70s and '80s'" AP

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Country's Biggest Wedding Fair Turns 8

More Than 210 Suppliers Participating

After 7 successful runs since its inception in 2003, Wedding Expo Philippines goes up to the ante once more as it celebrates its 8th edition. Touted as the biggest bridal fair with thousands of stylish wedding ideas for this year's soon-to-weds. Almost 2,500 sqm of exhibit space will be transformed into a wedding wonderland by the country's top suppliers. Popular wedding talents to show the stars and colours' who's Melvin Lunsing Del. Sta. Rosa NCC / SELBIZ will present the latest theme team entries in a culinary banquet salon Robert Macmillar of MOS Flowers & Event Styling Del. Sta. MT MMA / 747 MMA event live magic again as the official event stylist of Wedding Expo Philippines. Wedding Essentials Magazine, the top-to-guide of today's discerning brides and grooms, will present a street-fashion style tableau of wedding finishes to showcase their best yet for 2006. FREE admission to this event will be given to those who will pre-register online through www.themesnmotifs.com.

Taking center stage this March are the new breed of internationally-famed trendy wedding chefs who look like awesome gowns: Boutiques. Chef David Olson, last appeared in the Hotel Culinary Institute, exemplifies the young creative master cooks in what is now becoming the future profession of the big cut. Together with other culinary experts, he will introduce scrumptious kitchen works of art, patronized in their apprenticeships abroad and served to wedding feasts of the rich and famous. Also, the country's ace photographers and videographers will once again strive to score with the latest equipment and techniques learned from their participation in the most prestigious international conventions in photography and videography. The fashion designer's row, a big hit during the last Wedding Expo Philippines, will highlight each couturier's masterpieces in a summer wonderland of exuberant styling. A mesmerizing visual treat, wedding apparel of all shapes and inspirations will compete for soon-to-weds' attention in an interesting display of fine couture and sartorial creativity.

Much awaited by soon-to-weds planning for their grand day, Wedding Expo Philippines provides a myriad choices to all aspects of the wedding preparation. It is the biggest gathering of the country's top purveyors of wedding-related products and services with no less than 220 suppliers participating. Some suppliers join our other wedding fair but Wedding Expo Philippines. Thus, soon-to-weds get a rare treat in meeting the finest industry leaders in just one venue. To give the most choices, an additional 150 sqm fully air-conditioned tent will be built by Wedding Essentials Magazine to house the photographers, one-stop shops, videographers, and other wedding day suppliers.

A chance to win a honeymoon trip to Hong Kong awaits lucky couples booking their favorite suppliers during the two-day event. Every P1,000.00 booked worth is entitled to one raffle coupon for the honeymoon raffle. Exclusive discounts and special giveaways are also available. A free copy of ORAS, the Wedding Expo Philippines Souvenir Book with exclusive programmes will be distributed to all brides and grooms at the fair. On top of these, beauty raffle draws will be conducted to make the soon-to-weds' experience in Wedding Expo Philippines more exciting and fun.

Widely acknowledged as the launch venue of choice for the local wedding industry, Wedding Expo Philippines has introduced numerous companies, products, and services in its past 7 editions. This March, at least 10 companies will be launched in various categories including gowns/sets, cosmetics, alternative elements, etc. Hundreds of new ideas will be showcased.

Wedding Expo Philippines' 8th edition marks another milestone as it makes history as the largest running wedding fair in the country. This is a strong testament to the huge satisfaction of both soon-to-weds and exhibitors with their experience at the fair. For more inquiries, call Themes & Motifs – The Special Events Co. at 371-8383 or 441-2267.

BACK row, from left: Mary Pilar de Guzmán, Alla Hanakova Fayturan, Anna Photi Igot, Joanne Bernadette Bello. Front row, from left: Louise Dianne Herrera, Vanessa Anne Kilsandt, Danille Luz Valmonte

No 'returnee' is competing in Bb Pilipinas 2006—there are only new faces—the first time in many years

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Formidable, competitive

By Kevin Adina

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, NO "returnee" is competing in the Binibining Pilipinas pageant.

It seems nobody was willing, just yet, to follow in the footsteps of Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, herself a two-time pageant participant.

Perth-born, 24 of them, enabled Friday's press presentation of official candidates at the Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

The formidable bunch of nominees include University of the Philippines political science graduate Ga Anders Rosete, 21, who has stirred some interest even before she was named a candidate.

Rajeno has had to clarify rumors that she is based in the United States and working for the United Nations. "That's not true," she insisted. "I'm based in the Philippines. I've been working with the Asia Foundation for over two years."

Other lookers are interior design student Mary Pilar de Guzmán, 22, and Marie Ann Ermilo, 19, a dead ringer for actress Francisse Pinto. Entrepreneur Danille Luz Valmonte, 20, stood out for her glowing dusky complexion and killer curves; Mahou Maligaya claimed the stage with her sexy sass moves.

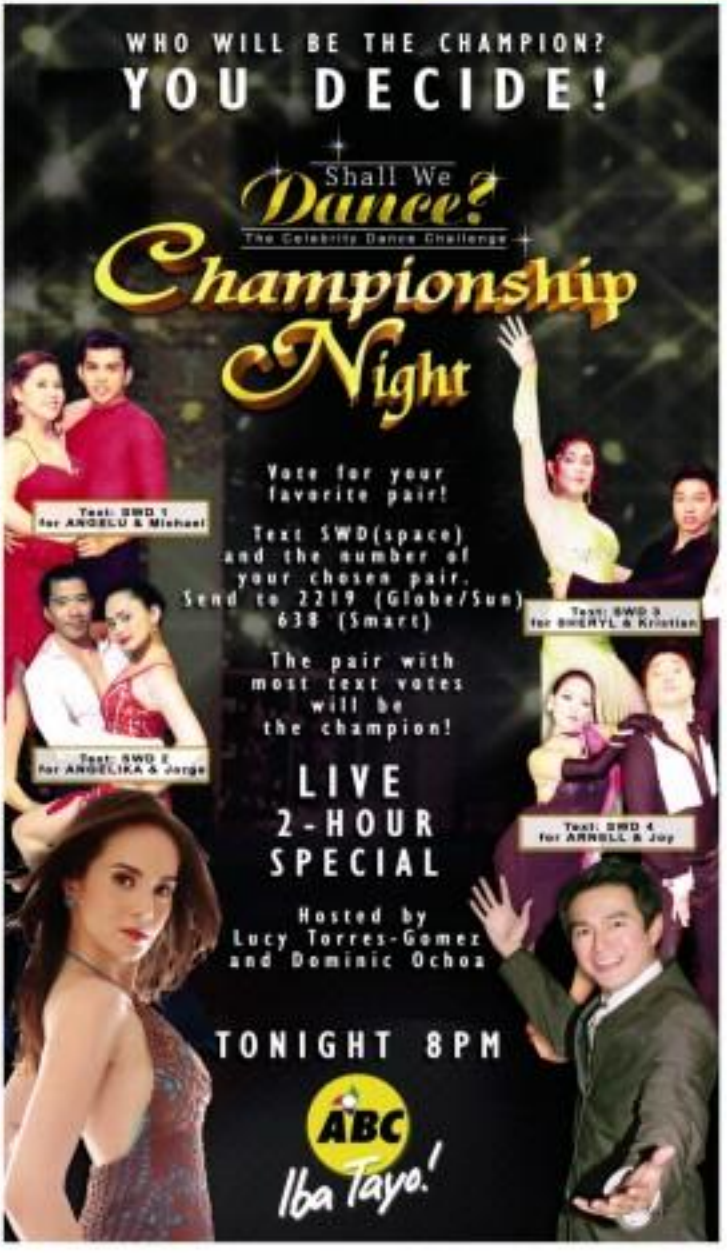
Foreign blood

A handful of girls are of foreign ancestry —Vanessa Kilsandt, Mirral Amy, Caroline Rivke and Wyn Rivera- but there's a dash of veterans from other pageants – Miss Post Secondin Fiona Marie Lorz, also a Miss Philippines-Earth semifinalist and Mutya ng Pilipinas runner-up; and Bohemian beauty Mhin Inta Mara Igot.

"The batch is very competitive!" exclaimed outgoing queen Gionna Calaweg, Miss Photogenic in the 2005 Miss Universe pageant. "So, may win another international crown," said Ladmee Aguilar, 2005 Miss World semifinalist.

Earlier, two "voluntarily withdrew" from the contest. Bb. Pilipinas pageant director Ernesto Rocio said German-born Mayumi Kolbe has yet to acquire dual citizenship, while Aurelia Bund could not get out of a prior commitment.

The pageant is set on March 4, 7:30 p.m. with a delayed telecast at 9 p.m. over GMA 7. Market executive Bang Arevalo hops and there will be little changes in the program. Singkong Duster will share hosting chores with Bernie Tiffo and Pia Guanio.



EDSA I 20

Stars remember Edsa I

I'd do it again—Anita Linda

By Rayvert Tan Diego Jr. and Maribel R. Cruz

Reminiscing with celebrities on the Revolution of 1986 yields a treasure trove of memories and trivia. Would they do it again? We elicit responses that are just as varied

ANITA: Yes

Anita Linda

Actress

I WENT ON by my own accord to my daughter's school to accompany an...But she followed me to her car to the gate of our subdivision in Alabang. She dropped me off in Guadalupe, where I started my trek to Camp Crame.

I have tied up with the group of Leo Martinez, Lancelot Delfino, Johnny Delgado and Perla Bautista and that night we kept vigil in 18th/White Plains-Mac Arthur. The following morning we had breakfast in Leo's apartment and I hitched a ride with strangers back to Alabang.

Would I do it again? Oh, yes! But for a good cause. Even though I am not as strong now as I was then, I'd still do it. But I know that the notion of People Power has changed somehow. In 1986, everyone was united...no rallies and the masses, students and artists. We were all there.

PERLA: Yes

Joey Reyes

Director

At the old (Channel) 4 (now, the ABS-CBN compound), my best friend Manny Castañeda and I were assigned in the newsroom. There we were, two citizen soldiers, manning the telefax machines and, also, the telephones.

I remember seeing Quezon Avenue deserted for the first time in my life. So Manny and I played "shoppity-hop" on the highway. We were having a ball until someone shouted that there were snipers in the (television) towers.

When it was confirmed that the Marcoses had fled, we were on the rooftop of the studio, crying and singing "Bayan Ko." It was a celebration!

Would I do it again? I've done it twice already! I was in the front lines of Edsa II. I read Bishop Sin Sillagot' story in the beginning and I agree with him completely. We have ripped the system of People Power. Its purity has been lost. It has become the tool of politicians. I won't do it for the present clowns that are running the government. We should analyze the events of Edsa II and III and see if those be what they really were. Would I go back to Edsa? The stress and the pollution are bad for my skin!

BEETH: Not allowed.

Tessie Tomas

Comedienne

My brothers and I were among the first to arrive in Camp Crame. Later, I went to Channel 4, where I was assigned in the kitchen with (the late singer) Baby Lan.

The scariest part was when we heard rumors that Marcos people would bomb the studio. At that time, I was with my 10-year old son Bubsi. But I was glad he was with me. He later told me that, because he had witnessed it, he understood the spirit of Edsa.

Would I do it again? Aarg, making "Bomba" II but big "if, depends..." If the star's keep on launching revolutions every time we have a problem with the government. We need to make the system work. Our primary obligation as citizens are to follow the laws and pay taxes and not to be street parliamentarians. We've been there twice already; ousted Edsa isn't funny anymore.

MOHR: Only if...

LAURICE and Johnny: Let's go for peace.

Leo Martinez

Director general, Film Academy of the Philippines

We were supposed to have a liaison with Ding Puno at the director Workshop headquarters. We consulted it and decided as a group that the order of the day was to go to Edsa! We were only a few then. Most drew his folks were for Marcos. We went out by the yellow flag of the Actors' Workshop foundation.

Since there were too many people in Channel 4, I decided to keep vigil near Crame instead. He merges kami de'n. I distinctly remember the rhythm of the soldiers' footsteps. Boom-boom-boom! It was in Edsa. It's a Bjuren now.

When Nora Aunor arrived in Crame, she was booed by the crowd. Because she had campaigned for Bhoxie3, Johnny Delgado rushed to embrace and shield her.

Would I do it again? Oh yes! It was scary, but we felt proud at the same time. Given the choice, I'd march on the streets again. But it should be for a compelling reason. Definitely I wouldn't do it for a politician. I am still waiting for the day when Filipinos will rise, united, again.

We all got goosebumps singing "Bayan Ko." Applause and it's sing along habit is the common sign of being together in our nation that should fight for our culture—the legacy of our greatness and integrity.

Mitch Valdes

Singer-comedienne

My job during that whole time was to pick up surrounding soldiers from different units here and take them to Crame and Aguinaldo! I was a courier service and diplomat combined. To think my Nissan Sunny was found now and I had not paid for it!

I also smuggled in film for the embedded television crew in Crame. We put the stuff under loaves of bread.

It was like a movie.

There was a rumor that tanks were dispatched to smash the protesters. I prayed that my death would be quick and painless. You know how close those tanks are!

When we heard that the Marcoses had left, I cried, but I sensed that our country still had a long way to go before it could totally remove the culture of the martial law era.

Would I do it again? Of course! Anybody who gave in the ways of my freedom of expression, I would run over with a tank!

Bibeth Orteza

Movie/TV writer, actress, activist

I was in New York at the time. I was glued on Edsa for a week. But I was very much part of the events that led to Edsa I. I had previously led rallies in many parts of Manila.

While I was in New York, I took charge of mass actions, too. For a time, my husband (Carlitos Siguion Reyna) and I guarded the Marcos home on East 66th Street. I remember that while I was there, I received a call from someone looking for Carlitos. The caller said Carlitos' uncle, Juan Ponce Enrile, had led a breakaway faction in Manila.

Would I do it again? My doctor called me this morning. She didn't allow me to go to Edsa. Emergencies na ako. (Bibeth was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2004.) Carlitos is there right now (at press time on Friday). I'm very proud of him. It always is my wish to see him marry an artista. I actually prayed for it.

Carlitos said he felt so ineffective when he was in New York while things were happening here. Hindi ko gusto 'yung nasa kanya siya (referring to Edsa). Gusto ko nandito siya. I'm very proud of him. It always is my wish to see him marry an artista. I actually prayed for it.

Carlitos said he felt so ineffective when he was in New York while things were happening here. Hindi ko gusto 'yung nasa kanya siya. I'm very proud of him. It always is my wish to see him marry an artista. I actually prayed for it.

Behn Cervantes

Stage director, entertainer

I was at Edsa as a member of a protest group that included Leo Martinez. The group mentioned the broadcast of Radio Veritas. I would do it again for only if there's "real" People Power and not just a movement instigated by people in politics. I want the people to exercise their power to speak out.

TESSIE (here shown as her stage character "Madam") It depends...

Johnny Delgado

Actor, director

I was in front of Camp Crame when the action was taking place. My group and I helped Nora Aunor get inside the camp. The passion I felt during Edsa I is still inside me, only in a different way. Edsa II was not inside me, only as an observer. Edsa III?

Sunday BIZ

E-mail sr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business features editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Caring for those who sustain RP's economy

THE CATHOLIC Church is pursuing a pastoral care program for OFWs who send to about $1.2 billion to the local economy every year.

By Marites G. Danug
Contributor

BURIRAM, GOVERNMENT AIDES and NGOs are not the only sectors focusing on the OFWs and their families. The Catholic Church has also actively pursued a pastoral care program for the migrants and, according to the World Bank, the Philippines remains the world's $1.16 billion cash cow, equivalent to 12.5 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

A major project that impacts on the plight of the migrant families is the National Migrants Sunday organized by the Bishops' ecclesiastical commission March 6 and 13, 2006.

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles says 60 percent of the total ills in Batangas are a result of migration. Dysfunctional families called absentee husband and wife relations, drugs as well as those with children Asian Institute of Management Policy Center Executive Director Ederlina Ofreneo, among others.

Another concern is the exhaustion of family ties as one of the root of migration.

Another concern is the exhaustion of family ties as one of the root of migration.

The biggest allocation of P5,000 goes to the mother in law, followed by P3,500 for groceries, rice and vegetables, P3,000 for electricity, water and telephone bills, P3,000 for the education of their two children and a yaya/helper.

The purchase of cell phone reads at P2,000 makes possession over basic utilities like P900 for water and P1,500 for electricity. With P500 going to savings, the rest of the money averaging P5,000 goes to entertainment, shopping and other unbudgeted expenses, or about P90,000 annually for discretionary items.

The family spends P15,750 out of a monthly remittance of P30,000, which is one of the basis for the placement fee. The

of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAAP) said that OFW families spent as much as P90 billion last year on discretionary items. He added that OFW families earning P50,000 to P99,000 annually, outside of their remittances received, spend an average of P48,000 on discretionary goods. This is similar to the case of the previously cited Mabini, Batangas family who has P40,000 to P50,000 income outside of remittances received and can afford discretionary spending of about P48,000 annually.

It can be inferred from the study that companies should come out and service the more essential needs of the OFW market as in the case of a seaman's wife who allocates 10 percent of a $500 monthly remittance for an educational plan, or of the husband of an OFW in Italy who has been buying property to secure the future.

Budgeting remittance

The firm also drew up personal financial models from the various Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) conducted by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

The models drawn up personal financial models from the various Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS) conducted by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Ofreneo recently assisted a small business, taking care of "All-day manok" which is sold in the market. This would add to the other incomes that total about P40,000 annually. Quite a boost for earning a portion of the funds to go to the area.

OFW spending

In a study by Dr. Rolando de Vera

National Migrants Sunday

In Batangas, the Church is counting on companies and industries with a supportive disposition to help sustain the institution. It will spearhead its Galatasoan, the National Mi-

(SUNDAY) B2

John Rex, Criselle, Lemuel, Jeffrey and Ryan in Germany

Building a network of young envoys to save the environment

By Cinvie Salmoran Mariano

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HAS LONG been part of Rizal Alliance Corporation's business. It invests time, effort and money to do the chainsaw firmness ensuring a firm up to its commitment to protect the environment while doing good business.

"Environmental protection should be advanced across generations and national boundaries," retired Rizal management board chair Vicente Ubungen.

Thus, it has made another commitment to share this passion with the youth and ensure that it is passed on from one generation to another across the globe.

The Rizal Young Environmental Envoy Program fulfills this commitment by creating awareness among the youth about preserving mother nature, getting the youth to assume greater ownership of their environment.

The RYEE Program builds a global network of young ambassadors for the environment.

The family program, now done in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program, started in Thailand about 10 years ago.

In its early years, only a handful of youth delegates from four Asian countries—the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and India—were sent to the Japan headquarters in Kawakamo, Kanagawa for a week-long camporee tour. The tour is the culmination of months of the program's implementation—from the search of candidates to the selection of the finalists to environmental projects competition and, eventually, of the young delegates who will be sent to the host country.

It did not take long before the members of the participants grew. For 2005, the RYEE Envirokamo tour was participated by 45 young ambassadors from 14 countries.

For the 2006 RYEE Program, the Philippines sent John Rex N. Justiniano, a second year BS Environmental Science student of Asiatech Science University, Anna Anthony B. Bacud, a third year BS Medical Technology student of Lorma Colleges in La Union; Criselle V. Bautista, a senior Bioengineering Engineering student of Ateneo de Manila University; Jeffrey P. Mesa, who has just obtained his BS Chemistry degree from De Lasalle University and Lemuel Lopez, a senior nursing medicine graduate from UE Los Baños.

John Rex, Ryan, Jeffrey, Lemuel, Criselle and the 40 other students from other countries were selected from among thousands of applicants.

John Rex

John Rex is involved in mangrove rehabilitation efforts covering a three-month immersion in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He established early on that in projects of this proportion, networking is a key element. Thus, even before the RYEE Program, he has already been very active in organizing youth groups. His Young Earth Savers Network has the following core programs: The Hi Students Network for the Environment, a basic ecocamping program for high school students; Save the Ignored Youths to Save the Earth for elementary students; Council of Young Leaders for the Environment, which takes care of policies and programs, and the Out of School Youth Fellowship for Nature.

He says the RYEE Program is made him realize that there are many other young people who share his passion for the environment. From the three days wanted to search for young envoys, networking is a task that for six months has already started, he says. The trip to Germany gave him a perspective on how big the network can become.

After seeing during that trip youth that things can be done to save and protect the environment, John Rex is preparing himself for bigger things that, he believes, he can easily handle with the help of his RYEE network.

Ryan

The RYEE network also works well for Ryan and his environmental projects. "With the network, we have youth environmentalists here and overseas can save share our respective experiences and ideas," he says.

Through the local network of envoys, Ryan

(SUNDAY) B3

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AKIN BIGAY	AKIN BIGAY
IYO MURA.	IYO MURA.
IKAW 'WAG	IKAW 'WAG
NA TAWAD.	NA TAWAD.
OKE?	OKE?
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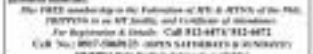

Goodbye dollars, hello euros

By Gavin C. Dumlao

PAOLO YAMBOT, A TYPPE IN HIS EARLY 30s, has long wanted to convert a portion of his savings in euros or in legal tender denominated in Europe's unified currency.

The systems manager for global business services at Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. isn't really an active portfolio investor but he's well-read, well-travelled, fairly attuned to global financial trends and has enough cash outside of his household's coffee jar. His interest was kindled upon noticing that the US dollar has been weakening against major global currencies while the euro has held its ground.

"Sandwiched between what many central banks across the globe are now doing – shifting some of their foreign reserves to euros. And there's an increasing supply of high-yielding securities in that currency as many emerging markets, including the Philippines, have issued new euro-denominated bonds primarily to diversify their currency risks.

In the past, it wouldn't have been easy for a domestic retail investor like Yambot to find a euro-denominated financial instrument that would earn more than what's offered by foreign currency deposit units or dollar accounts. For instance, the Philippine government sold 300 million euro bonds early this year (as part of a $2.3-billion bond global bond foray) and Yambot would have eagerly bought some if he had the chance.

The Ayala Land of the Philippine Islands now makes it possible for resident investors to participate in a fund that invests in euro- to euro-denominated securities. Its ALFM Euro Bond Fund, entered in March last year but offered to the public only recently, is the Philippines' first and only mutual fund denominated in euros.

"The euro has come of age," says Romeo Bernardo, chair of the ALFM Euro Bond.

European Union's Ambassador to the Philippines Ian Sir Kirk who greeted the new bank branch says the euro, introduced in 1999 only as a paper currency, has gone past birth pains to emerge as a major global currency.

"This fund is yet another confirmation that the euro has arrived in the Philippines," Dr. Kirk says.

Euro banknotes and coins have been in circulation since January 2002 and are now a part of daily life for over 300 million Europeans living in the eurozone, being the single currency used by 12 European Union countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

"It's an alternative for investors to allow them to spread their risk and therefore reduce their losses and increase their gains with another international currency, the euro," Dr. Kirk notes with pride.

"The economic fundamentals in the eurozone have gotten better and better and that shall underpin the strength of the euro, allowing investors to make larger profits while having to take less risks," he says.

A mutual fund is an investment entity that pools shareholder or unitholder funds and invests them in various securities. The units or shares are redeemable by the fund on demand by the investor. The value of the underlying assets of the fund influences the current price of units.

In the case of the ALFM Euro, about 98 percent is currently invested in Philippine euro-denominated sovereign bonds. The rest are fund plans to shift a portion to other euro sovereign debt issues.

Dojo Sison, president of SSN Asset Management Inc., says the stable interest rate regime in the euro zone, as opposed to the monetary tightening cycle in the United States, is providing a good opportunity for bond investors. In 2005, for instance, the ALFM Euro Bond had outperformed US bonds.

"The euro zone's low interest rate seems to appreciate this year, providing investors in euro-denominated assets with opportunity to cash in further gains.

The mutual fund is benchmarked against one-year German Treasury bills and has likewise outperformed it so far this year. From year-to-date, ALFM Euro has posted annualized returns of 9.17 percent versus the 2.71 percent from the comparative German treasury. For the past 30 days, it has yielded 3.51 percent versus the 2.47 percent German benchmark.

The ALFM Euro aims for steady income with reserve and inflows derived out of investments in primarily foreign currency denominated instruments and securities issued by local and foreign entities, with its base currency in euros.

Minimum investment in the new mutual fund is P1,000 euros while minimum additional investment is 200 euros. It is distributed by BPI Capital Corp., BPI Securities Corp. and BPI Investment Management Inc. This year, ALFM Euro is targeted to grow its size by about 20 percent, leveraging on BPI's leadership in the country's growing mutual fund business.

BPI officials say the mutual fund will also target European expats in the Philippines with euro-euro notes which are kept only in bank deposits and would like to invest in Philippine euro-denominated debt papers.

Caterers to hold confab

THE FOOD CATERERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (FCAP) will hold its second food caterers conference dubbed "Sine Tenuis, Sine Technique" on Feb. 28 at the Santo Mathias Bliss Terrace, corner S. Gomez Street, San Roque, Marikina City.

The annual one-day conference will cover topics like "Understanding the HMO Law," "Food Hygiene and Sanitation." The Department of Trade and Industry is conducting the seminar "Financing for the Creative Industry."

Food columnist Reggie Aquino will be tackling "The Practical Caterer" while Jaime Santiago will discuss "New Trends in Food Styling." Chef Jessica de Sena will share his expertise as he demonstrates "Quick-ing Food & Vegetable Carving." "New & Quick Desserts" will be taught by Bernice Ripalda.

"Healthy Seafood Cooking" will be done by a seafood specialist from Meco Industries.

"This conference is for our fellow caterers who would like to update themselves on the latest trends and practices in our industry," says FCAP chair Danny Jacinto of The Sweet Gourmet.

For queries, 371-46-30/631-41-83-39.

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SENATE
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered indexers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the printing and binding of "SENATE ADMINISTRATIVE" with the following specifications:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE/PROJECT
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The bidding documents shall be available to interested indexers/suppliers at the SAO Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **7:30 PM to 5:00 PM, February 27 to March 1 and March 6-8, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Liquidated damages of Php 1,000.00 or 1/10 of one percent (1%) of the unperformed portion, whichever is higher, for each day of delay shall be imposed on the winning bidder/supplier on said deadline. The pre-bidding conference shall be held on **March 14, 2006, 10:00 AM** at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 405, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All participants relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurement.senate.gov.ph, and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the SAO Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 4602 and 4603 (Ms. Ma. Cecilia).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY THE BID WHICH AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR GIVES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BARAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Caring for those who sustain RP's economy

Pertenggo B1

ganize Sunday in Manila. The other dioceses of Cubao, Legazpi, Tokdi, and Quezon have been invited. Delegations are coming from as far as Marinduque and Mindoro, and Fr. Jojo Garcia, Director of the Lipa Archdiocesan Commission on Migrants & Mission Laymen), who is the proponent of the event.

Special tour packages arranged for the convenience of the visitors will promote tourism not only in Batangas but also in the Southern Tagalog region.

Concerns of their 154,000 fisherfolk migrant families—the third biggest in the country—is an estimated 900,000 dependents will be addressed. Various church organizations like the Commission on Family Life Apostolate and Youth, PCCN like the Rotary Clubs, and even government entities like the POEA, Owwa, CHR Tesda and the DOH will also be providing support. There will be talks on topics about the social, economic, cultural and political aspects of integral human development with spirituality at its core.

The festivities at the Provincial Sports Complex and Trade Exhibition Center in Batangas City include a Bahay Ayanan (Trade and Job Bid) for corporate openers to join, a Producers Market or tianggi, product clinic for micro-entrepreneurs, free cable, medical and dental consultation, a talent competition, and sports tournaments. More than 10,000 participants from the different vicariates alone are coming to attend. Also participating are major companies from the tourism, telecommunications, property, banking, food, pharmaceutical and other industries.

Saving the youth to ensure greater ownership of the environment.

Building a network ...

Pertenggo B1

said they were able to establish a regional cooperation in the Northern Luzon, called the Green Planet Alliance, which aimed to encourage more young people to getting involved in environmental projects. Like John Ryan, there is also one mangrove rehabilitation trial rehabilitation.

Ryan is preparing for the launching of another project, "Oplan Basura," a campaign that calls for the proper disposal of refuse barrows.

Twenty-one year-old Ryan has been involved in community work for years now. As a Red Cross volunteer for seven years, he says he himself the ill effects of pollution, the illnesses caused by lack of sanitation and improper waste disposal. This experience prompted this med tech student to volunteer his services to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a youth representative of the agency's regional technical division. He thought it was better to address the root of the problem than the effects of it.

"I keep to myself until I buy fellow enviros here and in other countries, particularly those from Malaysia and Thailand. We exchange ideas and experiences concerning our environmental involvements and of course, we keep in touch as friends," he says.

Lester

His work as a veterinary doctor is no less diverse as Lester's mission to protect the wildlife and help address the problem of environmental degradation through BlyEnv, a wildlife conservation NGO composed of young environmentalist volunteers.

Political and health are as much challenges as his expertise. Lester handles BlyEnv's community service program and he notes as lead coordinator in various programs of the group.

His BYEE experience, he says, exposed him to the many possibilities he can in Germany and in the respective countries he is

MARISSA Andal's wall art /C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Back when we were 'bagets'

Part of the Class '81 of UST High School that held its 25th grand alumni homecoming at the Manila Hotel, the writer looks back to those salad but pontifical days of 'Indiyanan' and 'barkadahan'

By Alex Y. Vergara

THEGANG'S all here! The "Alaine/Y" and "Claudia's Angels" have a yuppy party around the dog after the grand reunion.

BEING STUCK UP IS perhaps as old as time itself, but how we react to it certainly reveals a lot about our age and the generation we belong to. And if a generation counts of 20 years, then people like myself who finished high school in the early 1980s are perhaps more or stand in their ways as those who came of age in the new millennium.

For example, when was the last time you heard a person chide someone for being extremely late? "Hoy, ang tagal mo naman, nasaan ka pa?"

Or how many times have you used the word "Indian" in vain—"Huh? Sa namin ako ito Indian?"—never mind if Indians had nothing to do with your friend failing to show up?

Apart from sounding so dated, such lines seem so unthinkable in an age when cell phones and text messaging have become as indispensable as owning a toothbrush and breathing one's breath.

These days, if the friend you're supposed to meet is a few minutes late, you simply text him or her to "make yourselves." If he or she doesn't text back, you give him or her a call. If for some reason you couldn't able to connect, you can text again to tell him or her not to bother anymore because you're going home.

Of course, you may opt to give that "Indian" or a person a piece of your mind—again via text. It's really that simple.

It may seem regrettable, nowadays even to most people my age, but in our day, you stayed put and waited for a date no matter how tardy he/she was because you had no way of contacting each other. Instant communication had yet to be invented.

Parochial University

And as former Dalawdy of Santo Tomas (STI) High School students, who spent our entire days not only about love, life and carnival stuff but essays from 1977 to 2005, we had coped with all of the above "timed" experiences flawlessly.

Apart from standing by our promise to show up on time, back then we had to specify and agree on where exactly we intended to meet.

"Should it be inside or outside Binondoc Bookstore? In front of All Mill Classics 1, 2, 3 or 4? The ladies' on the metro section of Cinderella? Under or over Quezon Jolog Quiapo Bridge? Failure to do so could spell disaster.

The stuff kids today take for granted was the very stuff we held dearly when we were younger. And those included (hopefully, still included) our ability to speak English properly and in complete sentences (thanks to the morning news channels) as for our English and to "TV Times," without a doubt our generation's weekly entertainment bible) and spell words correctly without resorting to electronic dictionaries and abbreviations.

Not that we didn't get the hang of doing the latter now. But our mind-habit lingers (mostly) and dismissing others have become as tactics "texting." Who else is flash this girl? :-)

We didn't need cellphones to be fashionable then, but a few of us were already budding Indonesian fans when Calvin Klein was more than just a bottle of his and hers perfume. Chanel Vanderbilt—not to be more humorous, "hehe" this was known as WildCats," meant shoes had nothing to do with Imelda and Cinderella were something you slipped on and heard up, not relaxing books.

Proto-vazillers

Yes, we were able to ride the first wave of the mall culture via such pioneer establishments as All Mall and Harrison Plaza. In those halcyon days, the now-defunct brands such as Audiocline, Basile, Borsalino and Thrower were the cat's meow. Amen.

The place to shop was either on Escolta in Sta. Cruz or Carriedo in Quiapo, where you got all the imported and "orig" stuff—from Aut bags to bargain Hidden jeans, Bagpis Fort Arbys to Bing Tru slippers, Claude to Jeans, Asian perfume, Sony cassette players to Sony Walkmans, and hoodie jackets to duckboards.

Speaking of duckboards, some of us dared to ditch the said finds and took those refunded consumptions in a vain attempt to copy Jill Munroe's dutch-defying moves. Those who weren't brave enough simply had to content themselves by combing and teething their hair into a flip to be Jill's understudy wannabe.

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"PACIFIC," 2.5' x 1.5', inspired by Bohol's Panglao Beach

"ALIVE," 1.5' x 4', inspired by Chico

"EVOLVE," 3' x 6' (in general by Digitopia. (Below, for right) "Amassa," 3' x 6', inspired by Dawn Loarca

Romancing the fragrance of fiber

"PARADOX," 4' x 6', inspired by Thierry Mugler

Marissa Andal's ongoing mixed-media art exhibit at Ruston's Makati proves there's more to her than designing the J.Lo bag

Text by Chuchie P. Floral
Photos by Jim Dalan Penaflor

MARISSA ANDAL LIBERED an evaporation silence after every effusive flow, you, she's probably never going to live down that J.Lo bag.

Like it or not, the bag made of two bath towel by the Hollywood superstar throughout the 2001 romantic flick "Maid in Manhattan" is now inextricably linked to the name of the designer ever as Andal is transitioning into other art forms.

But at the opening of her fiber and mixed-media art exhibit, "Fragrance of Art," at Ruston's Makati last week, the jovial Andal made it known that that evening wouldn't be about her bags.

"I just had two bean surgeries, did you know?" she asked, smiling, which made one suspect she was just joking. Her high spirits belied any trace of recent illness, however imagined.

Andal, in fact, had a brain tumor that required two surgeries in late 2004.

"It was in the pineal area, my third eye, " she explained. "When the tumor was removed I started seeing all these shapes and colors spontaneously. (The tumor) was blocking my third eye! I had to let it out. I started doing clouds ... it's trippy."

Her postoperative period would be spent not in her sick bed but in the drawing board.

Stunning

Andal's stitches would later take the shape of visionary fiber wall art pieces made of the same natural materials—raffia, straw, feathers, wood, coconshell... as her popular resort bags and home accessories. As early as January last year, barely four months post-surgery, Andal had already begun to set pieces to fabric boxes. The artist was encouraged.

Not long after, Andal would exhibit her artworks in various venues—from her Bicol hometown to Greenbelt in Makati, to restaurants, where she dressed (and still) 89 mannequins to inspire from Japan and the United States. (Per Uchimata, from Osaka, Hiya Mojica, and Jordan Jones, still exhibit Andal's works there from this year. A similar exhibit is also slated in France in September.

Andal's client can be ground floor of Ruston's Makati, so you until the end of February, is presented by Ruston's Interiors, the department store's commercial and exhibition division, as one of its projects to promote Filipino artists, and Ermitaño Foundation, which supports various women's causes.

Part of the proceeds from the sales of Andal's art will benefit the programs of the foundation. Purchase of each artwork comes with a bundle of the same which inspired it.

This artist was linked to many three-dimensional artworks inspired by scents. Ruston's sent her up to 60 separate scents for inspiration, and Andal says it was exciting.

"I didn't even need to smell the perfumes, the boxes they came in were enough to inspire me!" Andal said, chuckling. She came up with 67 pieces. "Six, as

MARISSA Andal's "more like" boxes: her new art.

spired by... the wonder of the perfume."

Welcome change

Truth is, said Andal, the scents on pieces were inspired not only by the heady scents of perfumes.

"It was love, too!" she said, giggling. "I always said I didn't want to get married. I was always busy, always traveling, then after my ordeal, I realized I wanted to settle down. When I said that to myself, cosmos suddenly were knocking..."

In June Andal will wed her beau, a doctor. "You see, things fell into place after I got sick. I'm so blessed."

Her draft from designer-response to retire has been a welcome change for Andal. "It has been very relaxing. I can see according to my mood. For how quite perfect," she shrugs. But unlike designing bags, "It need thinking. I have to sell 100 pieces of this."

Which isn't strong she's yet been selling just as many pieces of her fiber art. In fact, her benign haunt, several of which were at the Ruston's opening, have been buying her artworks by the commercial-full, or up to 100 pieces each.

Andal, however, insists her bag designs differ from her fiber art. "A piece of art is a piece of art... My [good] news is how to expand it more, how to reach more people and up with a number."

As for the J.Lo bag, "I really would be able to [see their desire]," she admitted. "It got so much press! It wasn't [my only] bag that was used on [Hollywood] movies... but, no, I don't mind at all."

E-mail: mural@inquirer.com.ph

Flora Filipina exhibit opens

THE FLORA FILIPINA GARDEN Exhibit, the country's biggest floriculture event, is running until March 5, at WOW Philippines Complex, Intramuros, Manila.

It is jointly sponsored by the Philippines Orchid Society, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary, and the Philippine Horticultural Society, which is now on its 35th year.

Of these are plants from all seven parts of the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, United States, Japan, Taiwan, the Netherlands.

Private and many other countries. Hours only and auction will be conducted.

Daily lectures are being conducted at the exhibit area, WOW Philippines, until March 5. Basics of Bonsai, Dendrobium and Cattleya Culture, Philodendron and Shrub Culture etc., Tray Landscaping, Terrarium making, Fern Culture, Flower Arrangement Basics, Popular Potted Annuals and other Flowering Plants, Pocket Garden, Landscaping, Deshima Elementary Flower Arrangement Basics, Philippine Orchid Species, Hydroponics and Semi-ponics, Introduction to Artificial Lawn and Produce, Anthuriums and Aglaonemas, and Bromeliads.

Call 4260571 or 5204421 or 5264961.

PHILIPPINE Horticultural Society president Jo one of the exhibitors and farmers in Flora Filipina.

Floral design winners announced

MS. TERESA "ROMEETTE" L. ROBLES of Elle Rosabel's Flower Shop in Batangas City, Ruston, topped the Professional Level II category of the 3rd Andal Awards, at Villena Botanical Studio, G/F AMO Bldg., 95 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City.

The contest was organized by Agrihort Corp. Filipina, Inc. (Agri).

Ruston's participant Rosabel Quiñon of Nenet's Flower Shop in Daragua, Bicol, St. topped the Professional Level I category.

Other winners were: Level I—Anthony Ordaz, Milagrosa Flowershop, first runner-up; and Edward Alfred Salvador, Elle Flowershop, second runner-up; level II—Jessie Vela, Jessie Floral Masterpieces, first runner-up; and Alfredo Bond, Flowerware, second runner-up.

The Andal Awards was conceptualized by Gerry and Gie Rose of Agri, the country's largest producer of (other) cut. It was named after Edward Andal, the French botanist who discovered Anthurium andreanum in 1876.

Anthuriums are available at the Agri outlet, at 1613 Leong Leon St., Sampaloc, Manila (tels. 7411300 and 7414867).

Agrihort Filipina, Inc., is at 95 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City (tels. 4307931 and 4307932).

Her love fills her with guilt

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EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

I'm 29 years old, an engineer by profession, single, and never had a boyfriend. We are four girls in the family and are devout Catholics.

When I was growing up, I had no identity crisis. Being a Catholic, I accepted myself as God made me, including my gender. I respect others who have come out of the closet and live the way they want. I have a personal struggle with being straight. I don't want to hurt my family and friends in a sin. And I have a crush on people of the same sex.

I think I look very beautiful and my built is not healthy to be attractive to men. I am happy being single and have a lot of friends. But now I have fallen deeply in love with my best girl friend. It's a struggle.

I don't have the courage to tell her. We had a fight and did not talk to each other for almost a year. I thought that would cure me of my feelings but I was wrong.

Her former boyfriend got her pregnant then left her for another girl. When we patched up our differences we became as per close again, as if nothing happened. Though I am more in control of my feelings now, I get so jealous when she and her ex-boyfriend communicate. The ex-boyfriend is my officemate.

Why did God let me and my friend become close again when I've prayed to Him to take away the feelings I have for this girl? Does He want me to commit a sinful act? I know it is not a sin to love, but loving the wrong person is.

I am about to tell her the truth but I worry about two things. First, she'll understand but will no longer want to be my friend because of my feelings for her. Second, we might end up being lovers.

If you tell me to see other people, I have already done that. If you tell me to bury myself in extracurricular activities, I've done that, too. What I haven't done is surrender myself to God. My faith in Him is failing. I still believe in Him but I am having doubts about my faith and that makes me angrier with myself.

I'll welcome your harsh words just to ease my pain.

(UNDISCLOSED)

Why do many people—me included—think there is this God who's anxiously hiding behind bushes ready to jump on same-sex "offenders" and sentence them to eternal damnation? Who created this pea-brained, unforgiving, malicious, deity-minded God? Where do you find him? Get his cell phone number and I'll talk to him directly.

I don't know about your God, but my God has the intelligence, understanding and knowledge to see among us can't begin to fathom! Not to a million years!

And He has better things to do than rap His finger on His cheek and think of ways to frighten people and riddle them with guilt.

You're a girl in love with another girl. Big deal! And so what? Love is love. Let's not you-tubes labor on it. Life is already difficult as it is. The world is getting dimmer with our bigotry, prejudice, heartless, narrow-mindedness, and here you are trying to put out the little flicker of light that is making your life a bit tolerable.

If your Catholicism is thrashing you with guilt, then forget this girl. But you're single, she's single, and if there's nobody else in the horizon that you are planning to put to misery, what's the problem?

Tell her how you feel and don't make a song and dance about it. If she commits to love you back...great! If she bows and leaves then she's probably not into you and it will do you no good to pursue her unless her mind is somewhere else, let it rest for a while.

The important thing is for you to get it out of your chest and be done with it. And while you're at it, leave God out of it. He's too busy minding stuff we mortals can't solve. This, my dear, you can look yourself. Get it out, get it done and move on. Life is more short to be miserable.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer, Letters to Mr. Marcelo, *24-hour fax privacy "Kalikasan Hydrotec," 715-6630 p.m., Monday-Friday, or mail to: 160 E. Rod. Ave., Mandaluyong City.*

Stronger Bones, Fuller Lives!

Adoracion Rosario
All-around Mom, 55 years old

Sa bahay, hybrid inahin ng lahat kasa kong gawin. Eight years na kasi akong separated ng Ardene. Would you believe that at this age, umaakyat pa ako ng 15-foot water tank! Also ako ang naggagamitan ng anong hahaging at naglilinis ng gutter. Kaakyat ko din ang malalaggay tree to harvest its leaves and fruits. Lahat 'yan kasa isang gawin glahi! Before I started my garden age, pinatanim na ako ng Ardene Active. At seeing 30 years old na ako, I continued my habit by moving to Ardene Gold. At 55, I was proven to have the bones of a 28-year-old. With Ardene, hindi lang ako housewife, I'm a super homewoman!

Grand Prize winner of P100,000

Natividad Remojo
Swinging Survivor, 67 years old

Mahilig akong mag-ballroom dancing. Pero after 42 years ng pagiging teacher, naghanap ako ng osteo-arthritis. Hindi ca'able ang salot ko. Simpleng pagtatakbat lang masakit na, lalo na ang pagsakyat ng stairs. Ubos na feelings. I can only rely on pain relievers and a treatment cum pain maintenance ang sakit. Labs akong nanlumbay dahil I had to give up ballroom dancing. Buti na lang na-discover ko ang Ardene Gold. I must say that it was effective in preventing bone loss among Asian women. For three years, I made it a habit to drink Ardene Gold. At mula noon, nagpapasok ko na nababawasan ang sakit. I started to move with ease. Now, kaya ko nang lumakad without using my cane! And of course, I'm back dancing again with my husband. With Ardene in my life, I'm free to do what I love to do.

2nd Prize winner of P30,000 gym membership

Haydee H. Quijano
Fitness SuperMom, 35 years old

Mag-isa kong pinapalaki ang apat kong anak. At ang isa sa kanila ay may cerebral palsy pa. Bat that's my life and I have come to accept it. It's physically draining kasa I can all the help I can get. I'm really glad my Ardene lang pala ang sagot sa sitwasyon ko. It helps me carry out my duties at home and at work. Dahil hindi lang ako single mom, I'm also an Ardenex instructor. Everyday, I handle 3 sessions of Ardenex and weight-saving exercise for my gym class. Pagdating ko sa bahay, I have to do household chores and attend to my kids. Ardene gives me the energy to do all. Talagang super mom ako with Ardene!

3rd Prize winner of P10,000 sports package and P7,000 gym membership

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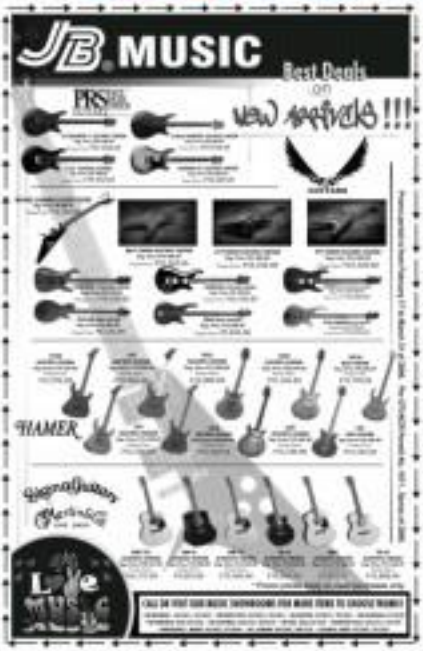
FOR STRONG BONES

LAGUNA officials and SM top executives cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the new SM mall.

SM president Tessie Sy-Coson and Rep. Dan Fernandez

JOINT Cut, just Cuts Jr., Wilfredo Chua Sy, Ger Teresita Lazaro and Henry Sy Sr.

HENRY Sy Jr., Jose Siao Ling and Hans Sy



Santa Rosa gets new landmark

DIGGING Flowers and flutterfly farms, the likes of butterfly farm exists a mall

100 CITY SANTA ROSA, SM PRIME'S 23rd supermall...has opened its doors in Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Located on a 250,000 sq.m. property, the mall has two levels and a floor area of 88,000 sq.m. It will serve customers in Laguna and neighboring provinces.

The mall's design is unlike other SM's in size. It celebrates nature and the harmony of consumerism.

A mini Butterfly Farm is at the center of the mall. Shoppers will see butterflies in dazzling colors in a garden setting. Celso and Bebe Bedoc, who operate the Dedoc Resort and Butterfly Farm, have a booth selling butterfly farm in gifts or collectibles.

The Pond Court has a core of plant boxes with pebbles as dividers. Shopper can relax in garden seats with designs of foliage and flowers on the backrest.

The mall's major anchors include the brand-setting and innovative SM Department Store and SM Supermarket, as well as SM centerpiece like SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, Our Home, Surplus Shop and Watsons.

Authentically have a dozen of brands: Toasters, Shangrila, Mitsu, Shaxon, Bandwagon, Active, Girlstuff, Gabriella, Fashion 21A, Collezione, X-Quisite, Sir Carlos, Aymark, Greystone, Mallual, and Mang Tex. Rising Merger are available in Charlotte, Pink Box and Mercedes Fashion Hanes, Fashion Avenue Timex and I Time Studio.

Also at the mall are The Body Shop, Gerald's Salon, Runner Flawless, Jed's Foot II, Rising Straight and Dressmaker.

Sports buffs can check out Sportsmart and Chris Sports while bookworms have National Bookstore and Christian Book Store.

SM City Santa Rosa is also kid-friendly with shops like Batman Oshkosh B'Gosh, Precious Pages, and Stylerland clothes. Trekkers can visit Go-Negosyo Corporation, Activity Center, Games and Gadgets, Alfaro Valley Electrowood, Globe Telecom, DSO Trading, and Trendline Trading.

Dining places at the Food Court include popular internal food chains like McDonald's, BFC, Pizza Hut, Go Noli Donuts, as well as Samgyupsalamat, local chains like Jollibee, Greenwich, Chowking, Shark's, Barolo Pizzeria, Cowgirl Grille, Red Ribbon, Tokyo Tokyo, Potchi, and Kilawin.

Old City Santa Rosa has busy stores of the art dresses and watches based on plants, and 1,351 parking spaces.

Mayor Alex Amante led the ceremonies during the simple blessing ceremonies. It was followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by town personnel and city officials: Deputy Officer Angeles, Atty. Bienvenido Flores, Rep. Vicente Bayas, Governor Lazaro, Vice Gov. Edwin Ongchuan, Santa Rosa Mayor Arel M. Arellano, and Vice Mayor Peter Arellano Sr. Members. They were joined by SM Group founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., President Sr., SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, and SM supermarket SM Herbert Sy.

PLANT-BOX waters makes shopping more relaxing.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — PROBLEM

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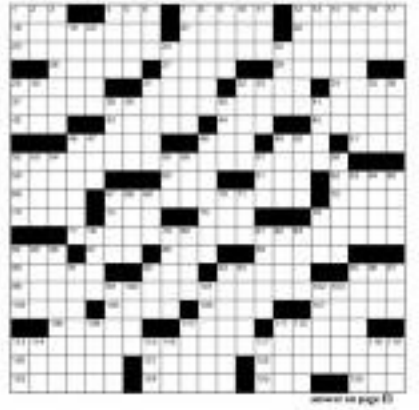

answer on page E5

Back when we were 'bagets'

THE AUTHOR in a black tee by Jose Seaman, with former UST schoolmates and Jill Pharse-and Kelly Garcia-reunion during their 25th alumni homecoming

All who "Come on, this can't be that easy to forget. Dubbed as the sexiest angel with the big hair and trendy girls, she was pin-up girl Farrah Fawcett's alter ego in the hit TV series, "Charlie's Angels." For a variety of reasons, Bennett and co-stars Kate Jackson and Jaclyn Smith became overnight sensations. Let's fantasize in the late 1970s, whether by or she was straight or somewhere in between.

Unlike Home on the Prairie," "

Sunday LIFEST

ANARKISTA's rendition of the multimedia stage. Imelda seen here dancing with Henry Kissinger

Yet another Imelda musical

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN "Imelda" the movie, and heard about "Imelda" the musical (staged in Los Angeles, California, May 2005).

New issues aside (a musical titled "Rose Lim Love—A Song Cycle," The review delves into the life of Mrs Marcos in the '70s-'80s from the rampage price of Ka. Imelda Campus, who was supposed to be Imelda's nemesis. It will also examine Mrs Marcos' passion for night clubs, shoes and music.

The musical is the concept of former Talking Head band leader David Byrne, who was also the brains behind the Broadway film. It will premiere at the Adelaide Bank festival this March 9.

Byrne's vision of/or the premiere is to bring it to clubs. I would prefer to hold my judgment, but the idea sounds so farfetched. Imelda Marcos at a rave? Well, maybe once she is limitless and does not need high-flying paraphernalia to keep up with party-goers. Watch out for exhibit versions in the coming months.

Best of the best—Oprah's 20th anniversary DVD. Go back in time to the beginning of Oprah's journey as the most powerful media personality and owner of their generation. In this boxed DVD set, she compiles her show's biggest moments and interviews. Be prepared to cry (over a woman who came from her execution to find that her ex-husband had broken into her house and killed all four of their children), laugh (when she and her best friend Gayle lived in a cubicle), and be astonished (studio consultant rejecting scene of gasoline including a cat).

The 6-disc DVD is not just a compilation. Written herself gives insight on why she chose the specific episodes. This is an invaluable collection that you can't miss, and please don't buy pirated copies since all proceeds of the sale will go to Oprah's Angel Network, a charitable foundation dedicated to helping women and children all over the world. I purchased mine from Amazon. Visit www.amazon.com for more details.

Must read—Vanity Fair's (and Tom Ford's) Hollywood 2006 issue. I just got my copy of Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue and it is the most impressive fortyfifty-some-to-date. The cover shot was photographed by legendary Iconoclast Annie Leibovitz and styled by none other than fashion icon Tom Ford.

The cover (a first!) features Keira Knightley and Scarlett Johansson, both nude, and the new nude-shy Ford. The original concept was to have three naked women on the cover but actress Rachel McAdams ("The Notebook") apparently backed out on the same day Ford decapitated us.

Talk about multitasking, the ex-designer even had a hand in choosing who would be included in this month's issue, the cryptic listing, "was he (Ford) tired of seeing them or did he want to see more of them?"

Some of those who made the cut are Heath Ledger, Zoe Saldana, Peter Sarsgaard, Michelle Stoll, Jason Bateman, George Clooney, Gwen Stefani, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Natalie Portman and the (past and present love of Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie—who both had more than revealing shots. The current issue is out in your favorite newsstands and bookstores.

And if The Oscar gower be... Mark the date March 5 on your calendar, when the 78th annual academy Awards or the Oscars get underway. Although the awards night has ensembled a Paris fashion show in the last years, this year has been a better year for excellent movies.

Leading the way are independent films vying for Best Picture such as "Brokeback Mountain," "Crash" and "Capote." The irreverent Jon Stewart hosts the show, and watch out for a lot of gay jokes since nominated films "Brokeback," "Capote" and "Transamerica" are all gender-bending films.

Here's my broken forecast: Best Picture and Best Director—"Brokeback Mountain." Best Actor—Philip Seymour Hoffman for "Capote." This is one of the most mesmerizing and memorable performances I have seen in a long time, akin to Audrey Hepburn/ portrayal of Holly Golightly in "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

For Best Actress—hands down, Reese Witherspoon for "Walk the Line." Best Supporting Actress—Rachel Weisz for "The Constant Gardener," and Best Supporting Actor, John Gyllenhaal for "Brokeback Mountain."

T'nT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

ANDAY San Diego

E-mail the author at andaysd@philtacs.com

HOT! READ magazine, Vanity Fair and Tom Ford's Hollywood issue. On the cover: Keira Knightley, Scarlett Johansson and Tom Ford

BEST of the best—Oprah's 20th Anniversary boxset on DVD

POLO Everyone is getting biking

HOST governor-general Fernando Zobel at the finishline

My last-minute training was only secondary to figuring out the most attractive outfits to wear to the HSBC Charity Challenge triathlon

TOP lady finishers Mona Torres and Tessa Cloughlan with the rest of the Pinoy tri-team

TELL and St. Jos. Pre Carmona running with lady Agnes Devanadera behind

Running for fashion and philanthropy

IN PRIVATE BANKING, ONE philosophy works best: Assume nothing. That's a great line to remember when confronted with the HSBC Charity Challenge, a whole-day, entertainment extravaganza with a triathlon, a bazaar fair and a charity jam.

After more than two years away from the triathlon circuit, I was once again all myself a triathlete thanks to Warner Manning. On his fourth annual fundraising event for the education of children in impoverished schools and communities, HSBC's CEO invited a team of sports enthusiasts, including our editor-in-chief, Jillo-of-one, to compete in the HSBC Charity Challenge for Children's Hour.

The first big challenge of the event, of course, was waking up at 5 a.m. when I had just gone to bed at 3 a.m. My last-minute, rigorous training was only secondary to figuring out the most attractive outfits to wear that day.

The whole exercise was cutting-edge for me, figuring, knowing that the race was not a competition but an activity for the benefit of six different charities involved in the education and development of disadvantaged children like Hopping Street Learning Center for Special Children and Bread Edwards.

What made this triathlon unique was the presence of personalities who are considered as Warner to raise funds for the Children's Hour, a point giving organization that urges anyone to donate one hour's worth of earnings to programs conducted to the welfare of non-gladdened children.

Sports enthusiasts but not hardcore athletes, they included well-meaning individuals from the private sector like Agnes Lund's Devanadera Zobel and, from government, Sen. Pia Cayetano, as well as 20 other triathletes. We were all race-ready at 6 a.m.

CHARITY Challenge finishers Amanda Carpio, Jan-jan Rollins, Sen. Princess, Dennis Valdes and Jessa Lopez

JERK and Bren Lopez with their run

GENEROUS Countess and winner's Warner Manning, Fernando Zobel, Jan-jan Rollins and Fred Lhuillier

OVER P1 million in pledges for Children's Hour raised by HSBC Charity Challenge

CHARITY bazaar T-shirt creations by model-parlor Rissy Sumcon, van Bren and Ian Kate Torralba

Mod-Mods pro-winner Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with her two sons

Special event

A sprint triathlon starts with a 750m swim, followed by a 20 km bike and topped off with a 5 km run. Endurance, stamina and speed are essential ingredients to winning. Warner's triathlon was a special one where the event started at noon and ending marshals extended to the safety of the triathletes.

This was my type of triathlete challenge, with so many competing perks. There were many volunteers from participants—it felt just like the arts of staff to guests at luxury hotels.

Having decongested my lessons of Advocaat milk before reading Pete, I was ready to jump into the cold pool. At the signal, I swam like mad in order to gain some distance from the pack. The swim is, after all, my favorite part of the race. Performing a speedy pace, I managed to survive fourth out of the water (with only super swimmers, Alaska's Fred Uyenogco in front. He has dolphin genes!), swimming me from the last wave of swimmers.

Transitions, between the swim and the bike legs, my transition zone took us long since I was the last participant to mount my bike. Grossing out of my swimwear to change into cyclo No. 2, spending [illegible] sunscreen and applying Kissmoor liners in hair combination were all so time-consuming. About 20 minutes, color mine.

My transition zone was very competently Controlled, including a hairbrush and mirror, to make sure I [illegible] face and photo-ready.

Zobel Romero at Outside Whidbey

Top gear

Of the three disciplines, the bike portion is the best area to showcase top gear and colorful outfits. My coordinated biker shirt and helmet were both purchased at Power Bikes Inc. (6980577), owned by triathlon hero Bryan Lopez. In fact, the bike was used to Oak Rockwall shop just two days before the race by a "tune-up" with expert biker Bryan Castillo. My almost-new pink Mizuno road bike has had a fun year, pregnancy-related hiccups.

Biking with sisters (or packed in one's own cleat can really help. I had a surprise that the bigger the hairs, the more comfortable the ride would be. But to reality, the heavier the bikes. Do some strategic thinking in.

Together with action couple Bruke and Jessica Lopez, my husband Dennis and I were on Barcelona Bicycle to get completed on loops of the Fort. Other participants like the Bike-a-team passed our group twice as we leisurely pedaled along.

Intimate circulation department guy and [illegible] from Bicycle Bike Athletes was my personal bike guard. He made sure I was safe from the Fort traffic, which kept getting busier as every round I got closer to noontime. The loop route, passing through Market Market, the Bonifacio Carnival and Jeepney Cafe, had child- to middle-difficulty slopes.

After the first round, Boy and Joel I was not chasing gears, so there was then but gave me because one hour to finish the race. Talk about very special awesome! For the rest of the bike leg, I would avoid be his signal to change gears.

With five Climbs of the race completed, we cycled back to Bridges for the run leg. I quickly changed to Cloth Bra 3 to switch my running shoes and change cap. Now clearly struggling at the rear of the pack, my only goal was to finish the race even if it means walking or crawling on to the finish line.

Hoping to finish before the awarding ceremonies at 10 a.m., I had to pick up the pace and do some running instead of walking. Pinoys learned are Run 3 to 4 commanding encouragement from [illegible] with their Power Bike Line.

Sparkling colors

Finally, I completed Warner's challenge (and fun) by sprinkling colors. My yoga mentor and coach, Jan-jan Rollins, had led him to almost half my time and was already stretching to prepare for a full triathlon the next day.

Through the generosity and enthusiasm of many individuals, a total of P1.1 million was raised. The charity fun of the afternoon, bolstered the experience of Manila's good Samaritans like Chuck Hemingway and Arnou Barretto. Aside from shopping, there were cooking demos by the Duke of Duty Chefs' Bistro Bistro, Fashion Talents by model-mom Rissa Sumcon, Katy Kierulfino and Pepe Hernandez, more efficient and all.

To top off the affair, a cheerful jam was held with a mini-concert featuring topnotch performers who all performed gratis, including Sam Lorenzana, Hugo Fernandez, Philip Salvador and RJ Jacinto.

Warner will be planning at the end of this year, so I am already wondering what would happen to the Chuck Challenge next year.

We should all emulate this wonderful man. Let's all "assume something"—that someone will overcome to take up the Charity Challenge for Children's Hour!

E-mail me at [illegible]

KD pare and triathlete David Sonnenn

CHARITY biz jeweler Pamela de Leon Gonzales

TRIATHLON founders and governors at HSBC Charity Challenge for Children's Hour

HSBC CEO Warner Manning with family wife Julie

TALENTED Pops Fernandez making a T-shirt for auction

PRETTY preggy mom Ali Zobel with daughter Sylvia

HSBC Deputy CEO Martin Cook and fundraising PR Luisa Sanchez

PARTNER Manning and Rob Lubbock

POWER Biker' Boys Carlos and manager Ada de Leon

SMART Welcomes
Bb. Pilipinas 2006

We are all waiting for the most prestigious beauty pageant in the country to commence at the Araneta Coliseum on March 4, 2006 at 8pm. With twenty-four lovely candidates vying to be the next Bb. Pilipinas-Universe, Bb. Pilipinas-World, and Bb. Pilipinas-International crown holders, it is set to be an exciting event matching brains with beauty.

Riding the 3G wave at the SMART Wireless Center

But even before that highly anticipated evening, pageant corporate sponsor SMART Communications Incorporated was privileged to have the candidates as guests at their SMART head office. It was an opportunity for the ladies to get to know the latest product and services of the company and to meet in person the real people behind its success. Dan Ibarra (Head of Usage Marketing and E-Services Group), Manny Perez (Head for Value Added Services), and Rolando Peña (Networks Service Division Head) wished them all the best of luck for the coming Coronation Night and thanked them for their visit.

The candidates with Ricky Isip (Head of Sales and Distribution & Product Marketing Activation Group)

A grand tour of a SMART Wireless Center then followed. Here, the ladies were able to do an actual demonstration of the newest SMART service to hit the market, SMART 3G. At the comfy cafe-like SMART WiFi Zone, at one end of the center, the ladies were able to sit back and relax as they browsed the World Wide Web.

At the SMART WiFi Zone there was broadband internet access for everyone. So much faster and more convenient!

For those of us eagerly following the progress of the 2006 Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant the ladies have now become familiar faces. Although only three will be chosen as the official crown-holders, others would have surely left their own lasting impressions. With the SMART Testers' Choice Award, SMART subscribers can actively participate in the pageant by choosing and voting for their favorite candidate.

Barely a week left, the ladies are as prepared as they can be. All roads lead to the Araneta Coliseum as the country's most beautiful women gather for a night of dazzling glamour.

Buy your Bb. Pilipinas tickets now! Call TicketNet at 9115555 for inquiries.

The 2006 Bb. Pilipinas Candidates

The ladies meet Joy Sanchez, Head of Customer Care, and were introduced to the latest products and services

Vote for your favorite Bb. Pilipinas candidate

To Vote

Text
BP
<candidate's number>
to
367
Option Send

To get more information about Bb. Pilipinas

Text
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to
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PLUS text message
For more information like candidates' names and numbers go to www.bbpilipinas.com

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SMART 3G

BECKY Garcia weds again/E2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

A 'SMART' boss grumbly in his sanctum

Expo gives a taste of what a wedding feast can be

HISTORY CATERING and Corporate Caterers Corp. will be the exclusive caterers for the Wedding Expo March 4-5 at The SM Tent, Bay Boulevard, Global City.

The company was set up 18 years ago by Ruby E. Khan in a 10-square-meter kitchen in her home in the family compound in Quezon City.

Now in the 150-square-meter kitchen is a three-storey, 2,000-sq m structure in the same compound. The mixed brew of her seven kids are helping her run the company.

David Henry is the executive chef while Joseph Henry is the marketing manager.

Historic Catering can serve anywhere from only 12 weddings, debuts, corporate parties with guests numbering 5,000.

It won the caterer to affluent-to-be owners of the likes of Shinsei, Chiba, Imari, Mercedes, Ayala Land, Mall, Restaurant, Antipo Resort, Pagsanjan and Montalban.

The caterer was also tapped for celebrity weddings, and important occasions for President Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Joseph encouraged his mother to participate in the expo knowing engaged couples were going to make bookings for their weddings.

At the expo, chef David will give visitors a taste of his salad and appetizers such as the fish and shrimp ceviche served with macadamia pesto and apple cider vinaigrette, and assorted filo tarts with tuna salad.

As visitors, he will offer prime rib roast beef with red wine reduction sauce served with garlic-mashed potatoes and an assortment of garden vegetables.

Dessert will be the classic French custard crème brûlée.

David is a graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management from De La Salle University's College of Saint Benilde. He got a degree in Culinary Arts from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and a Diploma de la Cuisine from the Le Cordon Bleu Schools of North America. Joseph is a marketing communications graduate from De La Salle University.

Historic is at 22 Roosevelt Loan, Sanville Subdivision, Project 8, Quezon City. Call 9209872, 9258385 or 9256367, e-mail info@historic-catering.com. Visit their website at www.historiccatering.com.

PRINCIPAL sponsors Augustine Lindino, Menda Feliciano, Marvin Cagunga-o-Tolo, Jocelyn Ramoldino-Marcos, Ms. and Mr. Georg Escalona, Irene Madrid, Nini Ramos-Linares and Nancy Bong-Angeles

A Grecian garden wedding

Text and photos by Mandy Navarro

BALLROOM DANCING QUEEN BECKY Garcia, head of Ramon Sports Council of the Philippines, married recently actor Greek dentist businessman Georg Escalona at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's third floor garden.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay officiated at the civil rites.

For the ceremony, the venue was transformed into a Grecian setting with columns adorned with roses, floral carpet and dozens of white doves.

Garcia's wedding gown was designed by international Filipino designer Monique Lhuillier while the groom had custom-tailored tuxedos.

Garcia's Californian-based sister, Irene McMillan, said hundreds of guests, including Ramon Ang, Dee in days before the wedding. Under Governors were a principal sponsor along with Jet-setter Mirah Belmonte-Lendoiro and former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Other sponsors were BDO executive manager Jessy Bonoy, Boots Bar Bar Gov. Chavit Singson, Mely Tamayo, ambassador Jose Antonio, Marcon Calimlim/Baha Lawyer Hazel Lumaad, Johnny Litton, Cebu's top socialite supporters Josiffe and Tina Pancer Linares.

Two sponsors, Imee Leghorne and Makati First Lady Elenita Binay, were represented by sis Cory Legaspino and daughter Nieza Binay-Angeles, respectively.

The black-tie reception was held at the Quirino Ballroom of the Shangri-La. Entertainment Vince Cabrera performed dancing cocktails while the finest wines from Tito Pablo's Tenuta Wine Cellar flowed.

Hene Sioson coutilioned basket cake was surrounded with red roses. Cory Quirino and Bobbi Ramirez, one of the groomsmen, emceed the program.

'Musical' dinner

Each course in the six-course dinner was named after the couple's favorite songs. Arthur Manuntag sang each song as a delicious thought out.

The appetizer—shrimp pancit was with green beans salad with tuscia ricotta. Beef was named after The Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun." The next four courses were called "My Life to the Movie," "My Foolish Heart," "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Coffee and tea were served to the tune of "Home at Last."

The dance floor at the center of the reception hall was lit from below to everyone's delight. It set up the mood for performances of winning members by members of the Dance Sports Council of the Philippines who bagged two gold medals to the recent South East Asian Games.

The party was capped by ballroom dancing to the music of Ondo Latino.

The groom and Garcia during a honeymoon trip to Hawaii in 2004. The groom said it was love at first sight for him and Garcia found him irresistible. He wished her to Pandakan, where he was based, to meet his family.

An engagement party was held at Le Jardin in Forbes, Makati City, in February 2005.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Paradise. A Greek wedding is scheduled in Athens middle of this year.

The groom hinted that that night some Manila dark horse lose.

DR. GEORG Escalona dancing with mom Ursula

HR. END HER Lea Salonga, late playful Cupid to the newlyweds

TITA Honorata Tello of Tuscia Wine Cellar and Lawrence Bruno

LAWYER Noel Larson, jury Antonio, Gov. Chavit Singson and Jovey Brewer of BPW

CHE SINGSON

Dancing was naturally one of the highlights of Becky Garcia's wedding to a Greek businessman

73rd anniversary of Virgin's apparition marked

ON HER LAST APPEARance to young Marielle here in Bantayan, Setembre 13, 1933, the Virgin at the Pose said, "I am the mother of the living, mother of God."

Our Lady appeared to Marielle eight times. Unan January that year, telling the young girl we should take care of the sick, be loyal to her and her Son, and contribute prayers and poverty as the basic attributes of our life.

On Jan. 19, 1932, the identified herself as "Virgin of the Pose," affirming her virginity and effacement to her pose.

The devotion to the Virgin of the Pose reached the Philippines and 130 statues of her are found in churches and schools all over the country.

In the '50s, Roman missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing (OSB) actively propagated devotion to the Virgin. Bantayan Island near the border of Germany and Belgium.

Thus, it is fitting that the Archdiocesan Archives Museum will have a statue of the Virgin of the Pose during the priest's celebration of its 100th year in the Philippines this year. It is strong. It recommended that images of Our Lady of Fatima's have some identification to promote her message effectively.

The first statue in the Philippines was received by St. Joseph Mariengrin, SVD, after a home leave in Germany. He blessed it at St. Joseph Parish in Cotabato, Cagayan, on March 2, 1958.

The message of Our Lady in Bantayan and more than 120 statues in the country are featured in the book "The Virgin of the Pose: A Tribute from the Filipino Children" by Milagros I. Ordoñez. The book is available in leading bookstores, including Catholic Book Center in Arroceros, Manila.

The Sisters of Mary who run Bayanihan and Clubhouse in Silang, Cavite, propagate the devotion. Their founder, Msgr. Alejandro Schwartz, was a devotee of the Virgin. The cause for the beatification of Schwartz was launched in 2003. His remains are buried in the chapel in Old Street. A statue of his effigy is still in Cagayan Church.

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Help needed

Sister Rose and Fred Patrick in Calatagan, Batan, Batan, needs help to build a multi-story, a permanent classroom and a rectory.

Fr. Antonio Quinito Jr., parish priest, said the parish council five barangays and one villa of Calatagan Pandamon, mainly fishermen and farmers with a few professionals and overseas contract workers, number about 20,000. Contact Rev. Fr. Quinito at the Bahaya diocese Chancery (047) 1217126, (047) 1445088. Contributions may be deposited to savings account number 0781-1445-28 at the Bank of the Philippine Island branch in Balagtas. Thank you for your kindness.

Symposium

Prelates all over the Philippines dedicated to St. Joseph are invited to a national symposium, March 7-8, in Batangas. Organized by the Oblates of St. Joseph, the event opens March 3 at the archdiocesan shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose Batangas. On March 4, from 7 a.m., activities will be held at the CAP building, Lipa.

Oblate Oblate will talk on dignity of labor and hospitality in work at 9:00 a.m. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo will talk on St. Joseph, guardian of the Redeemer and protector of the Universal Church at 11 a.m. St. Jacob Orbos, SVD, will discuss St. Joseph, the husband of Mary while Most Rev. Ricardo Ii will surely on how graces can be had by a faithful man of God.

Fr. Heinen Goerss, OSJ, will celebrate the healing mass at 4 p.m. Fr. Rene Alforque operates heads the symposium. Call Bro. Jose Mark, OSJ, at (043)7562056 or text 0920-9081176.

Biography

The illustrated biography of St. Josemaria Escriva is now available at Sinagtala Publishing House. Call (047) 791-0460. The book are available at major bookstores.

Those who have prayer cards can write to me at P.O. Box 2050, Manila. Endorse a text addressed stamped envelope.

New book

Sandra Aldaves called Dee new book 'Roses in December,' quoting a verse that said, "God gave me beautiful memories, so I can have roses in December."

Formerly with the public information department of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Sandra is a single parent who worked hard to put her two sons in school and build a small house.

She US resides in her book answer the request of friends and family when the going was hard, her happy childhood, and her love for her parents and grandparents. It is about courage to go on after an unsuccessful marriage. It is about what God will provide. And He did.

Call 7227858 or text 0920-9122467.

Visit

Every year, people troop to Antipolo Cathedral especially in April, May and June to fulfill a promise to our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage. Balangonians are among the pilgrims. Devotion to our Lady of Antipolo is well observed in the Amable town of Bulacan.

The US Knights of Columbus Mariano Barangay Council No. 4600 arranged for the 8th 25-27 visit of the Virgin. The council, with the support of the Bulacan Tourism Council, prepared relevant presentations, prayerful ceremonies, solemn processions, a continental Mass and much more for a weekend of blessings for the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Bulacan, Batangas.

6 p.m. habit

According to visionary Ma Amancio, we should light candles at 6 p.m. everyday to our altars at home and pray to convert sinners. Rosaries. The Ave Maria de Rosa under the rough Mile.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barang

TRAINEE Hyun-ee, Cara Quiang, Bong-ho Sagun, Hyung Aquino, Lara Bascal and Miss Quirino with the image of the Virgin of the Pose at the St. Scholastica's Academy in San Fernando, Pampanga

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and/or pregnancies. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, 185 Mak'ati Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, 1200 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in accord to the senders.

ESPARTERO-ARCILLA

Elmer Evangelista, son of Anna and Abraham Evangelista of Salem Path, California, exchanged marriage vows with Josephine Margie Arcilla, daughter of Consuelo and Josephine Arcilla of Sitio Catandunanes, last Dec. 16, 2005. Ceremony was held at Serrania de San Antonio Bridal, Forbes Park, Makati, and reception followed at Makati Shangri-La.

SANGA-PO

Edsel D. Sanga, youngest son of Malabon City councilor Rogelio and Herminia Sanga, and Rosanna M. Po, only daughter of businessmen John and Perla Po, exchanged vows recently at the Manila Zoilmic de los Reinados Church, Mabini, Manila. Reception followed at the Park View Chinese Seafood Restaurant, Ashadow Street, Ermita, Manila.

GUMLAD-VILLARANTE

Silvester Gumlad and Vilma Villarante will solemnize their marriage today at the Basilica of San Sebastian, Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila.

Eric Pineda, designated the bride's gown using ivory duchess satin and silk chiffon.

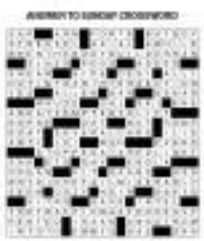
The female attendants will wear gowns in silver gray shantung silk and chiffon.

Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel.

SORIANO-GARCIA

Nestor A. Soriano, son of Bishop Clifford (Brenda) Church Lee and Rosita (née Abaya) Soriano, and recently Ms. Gracia C. Garcia, daughter of engineer Herberto and Gloria (née Crisostomo) Garcia at the United Methodist Church, Taft Avenue corner Kalaw St., Manila. Atlas Abaya on all heavenly Weddings in Cebu City designed the wedding gown.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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